## Appendix A – Consultation 1 summary

#### Aveton Gifford Neighbourhood Plan

Introduction

As part of the consultation process for the development of the neighbourhood plan for the Aveton Gifford Parish, it is vital for the team tasked with drawing up the plan to ensure that the wider community:

Is kept fully informed of what is being proposed

Is able to make their views known throughout the process

Has opportunities to be actively involved in shaping the emerging neighbourhood plan or Order

Is made aware of how their views have informed the draft neighbourhood plan or Order

In order to meet these requirements, the working group organised a public consultation day on 20th February 2016. This provided the opportunity to explain to the public what the neighbourhood plan is and gave people the opportunity to submit their views for inclusion in the development of the document. This day provided the bulk of comments which will inform the next stage of the process, but in addition to this, further contributions are being sought and encouraged via the village website, Facebook and the village shop.

Methodology

The working group explained the Neighbourhood Plan to attendees and then asked them to provide comments covering the following areas:

Future Housing Development

Facilities in Aveton Gifford

Village Access and Roads

The Future

Open Spaces

Conservation

Education and Employment

The best of Aveton Gifford

“Everything Else”

Further comments were added via the village shop and within each of these areas, the comments were then categorised and analysed. The working group has also sought to engage local land owners and businesses in order to understand their views.

Where comments had been submitted to the incorrect section e.g a comment about roads in the Open Spaces section, these were moved to the correct area.

**Results**

There were 788 comments received – 783 from the consultation day and 5 submitted via the shop. The breakdown of these comments by area is shown below, ranked by the number of comments:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Comments** |
| Future Housing Development | 100 |
| Facilities in Aveton Gifford | 124 |
| Village Access and Roads. | 181 |
| The Future | 73 |
| Open Spaces | 99 |
| Conservation | 59 |
| Education and Employment | 45 |
| The Best of AG | 96 |
| Everything Else | 11 |
| **TOTAL** | **788** |

Within all of these areas the following topics were the most mentioned:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Number of Comments** |
| a) Car Parking: roads/ car park/ suggestions/other | 53 |
| b) Community Spirit: | 38 |
| c) Village Hall- Renovate/ Re-build/Uses/ Other | 33 |
| d) Bridge : Footbridge over Avon: pro/against/ other | 33 |
| e) Speed- bumps: for/against/other traffic calming | 29 |
| f) Location AONB: | 27 |
| g) Broadband | 25 |
| h) One-way System: for/against/ other | 24 |
| i) For new houses | 23 |
| j) Tidal road | 23 |

The following breaks down these results further, by area, showing the types of comments raised.

Future Housing Development

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Count** | **%** |
| a) Affordable Homes- | 22 | 22% |
| b) Self-Build – | 12 | 12% |
| c) More Rental homes- | 2 | 2% |
| d) Opposed to any new development | 12 | 12% |
| e) Do Historic buildings precedent New? | 4 | 4% |
| f) Land for new development- Suggestions for/against | 0 | 0% |
| g) Holiday Homes : for/against? | 7 | 7% |
| h) Sheltered Housing | 2 | 2% |
| i) Any other ideas/ concerns. | 16 | 16% |
| j) In wrong section | 0 | 0% |
| k) For new houses | 23 | 23% |
| **TOTAL** | **100** | **100%** |

Mostly fairly predictable, there were multiple comments both for and against any development of any size, and those for development (of varied types).

Significant comments that local needs should be met as a priority, and holiday homes to be discouraged.

There were a few very specific areas within the village which drew adverse comment regarding suitability for development.

There were also a handful of comments which were not relevant to NP, but should be passed on to the Parish Council for action/comment.

Facilities in Aveton Gifford

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Count** | **%** |
| a) Shop and Post –Office | 14 | 11% |
| b) Village Hall- Renovate/ Re-build/Uses/ Other | 33 | 27% |
| c) Church | 3 | 2% |
| d) Pub | 5 | 4% |
| e) Swimming pool: For/ against | 10 | 8% |
| f) Broadband | 25 | 20% |
| g) Outdoor sports facilities: Skate-park/ tennis courts/ other. | 15 | 12% |
| h) Football Pitch: Astro turf: for/against/other | 1 | 1% |
| i) Public Toilets | 7 | 6% |
| j) Other. | 11 | 9% |
| k) In wrong section. | 0 | 0% |
| **TOTAL** | **124** | **100%** |

There were 124 unique points raised across several topics. The main area of interest with 27% of comments was how the village hall should be changed, updated or relocated.

The next most prevalent topic was the issue of broadband, or the lack thereof. Whilst not a direct planning issue, the village infrastructure will be key to bringing new people and especially business to the parish and as such is important.

Over half the people commenting on the outdoor sports facilities were in favour of AG having a skate park and many people praised the existing facilities. The swimming pool was also seen as very important to the community.

People again were very complimentary about the shop and stressed the importance of it to the community.

Village Access and Roads

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Count** | **%** |
| a) Car Parking: roads/ car park/ suggestions/other | 53 | 29% |
| b) One-way System: for/against/ other | 24 | 13% |
| c) Speed- bumps: for/against/other traffic calming | 29 | 16% |
| d) Bus Route: Through village/ out of village/ other | 15 | 8% |
| e) Speed restrictions on A379 | 12 | 7% |
| f) Tidal Road speed restrictions: for/ against/ pedestrian priority/pot holes/ other | 15 | 8% |
| g) Yellow Lines: | 2 | 1% |
| h) Other Road concerns: | 20 | 11% |
| i) In wrong section | 0 | 0% |
| J) Speed Limits | 4 | 2% |
| K) Commercial Traffic | 7 | 4% |
| **TOTAL** | **181** | **100%** |

The issue of car parking and traffic flow through the village dominated the comments. With regard to the lack of parking spaces, the vast majority were in favour of expanding the existing car parks (predominantly the memorial hall car park) with some comments advocating a new car park. Another popular theme was the need to keep resident parking free in both village car parks.

With regard to traffic calming, the trend was in favour of maintaining or increasing the number of speed bumps.

There was also a fair amount of interest in the idea of making the village one way, to help with traffic flow, although some people raised the concern that it may increase traffic speed through the village.

Several comments raised the need to reduce commercial / large vehicle access to the village.

The Future

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Count** | **%** |
| a) Bridge : Footbridge over Avon: pro/against/ other | 33 | 45% |
| b) Access to Bantham/ water | 7 | 10% |
| c) Community renewable energy (wind/water/solar): for/against | 16 | 22% |
| d) Mains gas/other energy | 9 | 12% |
| e) Business premises: for/against/other | 4 | 5% |
| f) Other | 4 | 5% |
| g) In wrong section | 0 | 0% |
| **TOTAL** | **73** | **100%** |

In this section 45% of comments related to the bridge over the Avon and a further 22% community energy projects.

The views expressed on having a bridge across the Avon were heavily in favour of the idea. There were also a few people wanting this to include a cycle track. One person even suggested trying to get the Army to build the bridge as a training exercise.

With regard to the Community Renewable Energy topic, 15 out of 16 comments related to green energy generation. Of these 12 were in favour of a green energy scheme, with the most focus being place on wind generators, with some solar and one vote for tidal energy. Of the people who opposed this only one person qualified their views by saying that wind power was no longer viable. One person requested a charge point for electric cars.

Open Spaces

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Count** | **%** |
| a) Football Pitch- drainage | 4 | 4% |
| b) Footpaths- requirements and suggestions/ concerns | 14 | 14% |
| c) Timbers car park- security/ uses/ water-craft storage/ Tidying | 1 | 1% |
| d) Moorings | 5 | 5% |
| e) Estuary: suggestions/ concerns | 14 | 14% |
| f) Dog Walking: concerns/requirements | 10 | 10% |
| g) Bantham Estates | 1 | 1% |
| h) Other | 9 | 9% |
| i) In wrong section | 0 | 0% |
| j)Tidal road | 23 | 23% |
| k) Play Areas | 18 | 18% |
| **TOTAL** | **99** | **100%** |

Open Spaces had nearly 100 comments.

On the ‘Estuary’ there seemed to be a lot in favour of secure storage for boats and kayaks. Also availability of moorings for villagers and parishioners.

The Tidal Road is very popular and the overwhelming requests were for speed limits to be imposed there. Also to prioritise the tidal road for pedestrian and cycle use.

Footpaths around AG pleased quite a few and and the proposed (now completed) hard path around the football pitch gets the nod of approval with several requests for more mud free paths in the village (rectory lawn).

Play Areas were approved of generally and there were some requests for more. Basketball. Outdoor gym equipment, and a skateboarding area (said to popular with boys). A couple asked for football field to be drained.

Dog walking generally pleased with facilities in AG, with several comments saying keep dogs on leads in play areas.

The tidal road will feature prominently in our Neighbourhood Plan, and this and the other items referred to the PC and Parish Appraisal

Conservation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Count** | **%** |
| a) Wildlife provision/issues | 11 | 19% |
| b) Trees: planting/ maintenance/felling | 13 | 22% |
| c) Dredging and clearance | 5 | 8% |
| d) Industrial Impact-Bridge/other | 4 | 7% |
| e) Chemical pollution | 5 | 8% |
| f) Heritage: phone box/stocks/ old buildings | 11 | 19% |
| g) Other | 10 | 17% |
| h) In wrong section | 0 | 0% |
| **TOTAL** | **59** | **100%** |

The topic of conservation had a more even split of comments when compared to other areas. Approaching 40% of the comments were relating to nature conservation (provision and maintenance of habitats) and trees. The majority of comments relating to the trees, were requesting better maintenance.

Of the heritage comments the vast majority were relating to the preservation of the character of the village and ensuring landmarks like the stocks are kept.

Education and Employment

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Count** | **%** |
| a) More employment opportunities: for/against | 10 | 22% |
| b) Community information boards | 3 | 7% |
| c) Business/ Office/Studio facilities: | 4 | 9% |
| d) Holiday trade etc: pro/against | 7 | 16% |
| e) School Community: | 18 | 40% |
| f) Designated School buses: | 0 | 0% |
| g) Other | 3 | 7% |
| h) In wrong section | 0 | 0% |
| **TOTAL** | **45** | **100%** |

The biggest topic in this section was relating to the school. People were keen to see greater integration with the community and greater provision in wrap around care.

There was general encouragement for growing the small business opportunities and community in Aveton Gifford, although some people were concerned on the impact / aesthetics of any new business premises.

There was a split in opinion with regard to holiday homes, although people were more in favour of B&Bs than second homes.

The Best of Aveton Gifford

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Count** | **%** |
| a) Community Spirit: | 38 | 40% |
| b) Facilities: | 20 | 21% |
| c) Location AONB: | 27 | 28% |
| d) In wrong section | 0 | 0% |
| e) Shop | 4 | 4% |
| f) School | 1 | 1% |
| g) Church | 3 | 3% |
| h) Other | 3 | 3% |
| **TOTAL** | **96** | **100%** |

The main focus of comments in this section were relating to appreciation of life in Aveton Gifford. The spirit and sense of community was seen as a massively positive aspect of living in the parish and the fact that it was a beautiful location was also noted.

The large number of facilities available within the village are seen as a real benefit and are very much appreciated.

Despite a large number of comments in this section, the vast majority were quite general in nature and did not include specific recommendations or points for action.

Everything Else

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Count** | **%** |
| a) Barking dogs guidelines | 2 | 18% |
| b) Community orchard/ wood | 3 | 27% |
| c) Hovercraft to Bantham | 2 | 18% |
| d) Youth Club | 2 | 18% |
| e) Volunteers needed to do parish jobs | 1 | 9% |
| f) Holiday visitors take own rubbish away | 1 | 9% |
| **TOTAL** | **11** | **100%** |

The vast majority of comments in “Everything Else” were reallocated to their correct, respective sections. This left only a handful of comments which could not provide much useful input into the process.