



Studham Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

March 2017

Neighbourhood Plans

- A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is a new sort of planning document that communities can put together to set out how they would like their town, parish or village to develop over the next 15 to 20 years or so.
- It will set out policies relating to how land is used and developed, rather like the Local Authorities Core Strategy but at a much more local level
- Your NP once produced will ultimately set the criteria against which any new planning applications will be judged
- The plan is produced according to a strict process including independent examination and a public referendum.
- If successful, the plan will be adopted by the Local Authority as part of its Local Plan and your community will have set out its detailed policies for future development in the parish

Background

- A NP Working Party of volunteers from the community has been working alongside the Parish Council to undertake consultation and produce the Neighbourhood Plan
- Housing Needs Survey carried out in August 2015

The Questionnaire

- A Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire was delivered to every household in Studham in January 2017
- We received 279 responses from around 502 questionnaires distributed
- 56% response rate. Typical return rate is 20-25% so this is exceptionally good

Householder information

Gender	% of respondents
Male	58
Female	42

Age	% of respondents
0-24	1
25-44	10
45-64	45
65-74	29
75-84	11
85+	4

What do you like about living in Studham?

	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %	Not Sure / Don't know %
Green belt / area of outstanding natural beauty	81	17	1	0.5	0.5
Low population	50	40	7	0.5	2.5
It has good facilities (village hall, churches, school)	20	50	22	5	3
It is quiet / peaceful	67	29	2	1	1
Good transport connections	8	30	34	19	9
Clean and tidy	36	57	5	2	1
String sense of community	29	55	10	3	4
Good mix of residential housing	19	50	23	5	4

Is there a need for more housing in Studham over the next 20 years?

Need for more housing over next 20 years	% of Respondents
Strongly Agree	18
Agree	51
Disagree	15
Strongly Disagree	12
Not sure / Don't know	4

How many homes would be appropriate to be built over the next 20 years?

Number of houses	% of Respondents
None	11
Under 10	9
10 – 25	23
26 – 50	30
51 – 75	12
76 – 100	10
100 plus	6

What scale of development do you think would be appropriate over the next 5 years?

Number of houses	% of Respondents
None	15
Under 10	27
10 – 25	35
26 – 50	15
51 – 75	5
76 – 100	2
100 plus	1

Which types of home do you think would be most suitable in Studham?

	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %	Not sure / Don't Know %
Open market homes	27	45	9	9	10
Housing association rental	5	24	34	29	8
Local homes for local people	41	49	3	4	2
Shared ownership	6	43	25	16	10
Retirement / Sheltered homes	22	46	16	13	4
Bungalows	23	48	13	8	8
1 bed Houses	8	35	32	16	10
2 bed houses	23	57	7	9	5
3 bed houses	23	62	7	4	4
4 bed houses	12	46	21	15	6
5+ bed houses	8	31	27	28	7
Flats (1 or 2 bed)	6	15	32	42	6

Most suitable location for future development?

	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %	Not sure / Don't know
In village centre	8	20	31	36	5
Edge of village centre	9	48	18	17	7
Edge of Holywell	14	42	17	20	7
Within 250m of the Village Hall	5	12	37	35	12
Within 500m of the Village Hall	8	27	28	28	10
Built in between Holywell and the village centre along Dunstable Rd	24	47	9	15	4
Along Leighton Buzzard Road (A4146)	18	46	16	10	11
Dispersed on rural land within the parish boundary	10	32	24	25	10

- 92% of respondents were in favor of the Neighbourhood Plan identifying specific sites for any future development
- 8% would rather the local authority made this decision
- Broadband access – 66% of respondents were not happy with the current internet connection
- Mobile phone connection – 87% of respondents received 'poor' or no mobile phone signal at home

Studham Lower School

- 81% of respondents felt that the school should be extended to a full primary school allowing it to take children up to the age of 11 years
- 75% of respondents were happy for this expansion to take place if adjacent fields were required to be used
- 76% of respondents were in favour of improving car parking close to the school site
- 77% of respondents would be in favour of providing a pedestrian crossing close to the school site

Village Hall / village facilities

- 64% of respondents were happy with the existing village hall facilities provided
 - Need for improved car parking facilities
 - Need for a larger hall if the community grows
 - Continued modernisation of hall and facilities
- 56% of respondents felt that the children play equipment was currently located at the most suitable site
- 72% of respondents felt that it would be a benefit to have a more formal footpath, linking the village centre with the sports and social club

Green Infrastructure

- 97% of respondents felt that Studham Common was an important asset for the village.
- 94% felt that it should be exempt from any form of building development
- 92% of respondents currently use the existing footpath and bridleway network in the village
- 64% of respondents felt that there was a need for improved footpaths connecting various village facilities such as the school, churches and sports and social club

Services and facilities

- 72% of respondents felt that there was no need for any additional services in the village
- Of the additional facilities suggested a village or community shop was the most requested
- 82% of respondents said they would use a shop in the village either 'daily' or 'weekly'
- 52% of respondents felt that the current bus service could be improved

Other comments / conclusions

- Strong desire to maintain the rural feel and sense of community
- Strong desire to protect the Green Belt and areas of outstanding natural beauty in the parish, including Studham Common
- Improve local footpaths / cut back overhanging hedges
- Traffic calming on Dunstable road between the village hall and the bell
- Improvement to utilities (water / electrify supply)

Next Steps....

- Start to produce the draft Neighbourhood Plan
 - Use all of the consultation results to start to produce policies for the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Complete detailed assessment of the Questionnaire analysis and incorporate latest information
 - In terms of possible future development, examine the types of housing identified in conjunction with the potential locations. Produce consultation document.
- Hold a Green Infrastructure Plan Workshop

The Green Infrastructure Plan

You are invited to a workshop which will help shape and prioritise actions for future enhancements to Studham's network of public access, biodiversity, heritage and landscape assets.

Wednesday 5th April, 7.30 – 9.30pm Studham Village Hall

Please also make a note of the following events:

Saturday 22nd April 10.30 – 12.30 a 'Drop-in' session to review the draft GI map

Wednesday 3rd May, 7.30 – 9.30 a 'Final GI Workshop' to agree and prioritise proposals to be included in the GI Plan and to be used to influence the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Green Infrastructure can be defined as....

“A strategically planned and managed network of accessible greenspaces and access routes, landscapes, biodiversity and heritage which will meet the needs of existing and new communities.”

GI can include:

- Accessible Countryside
- Urban parks
- Canals and Water space
- Pocket Parks
- Allotments
- Footpaths/ Bridleways
- Woodlands
- Country Parks
- Nature Reserves
- Historic Sites
- Cemeteries
- Playing Fields
- Cycleways
- River Meadows

Community Green Infrastructure Planning

Gives an opportunity for local residents – those who use and enjoy the local environment – to say what they most value about the current GI network; and identify proposals for the future enhancement and protection of GI features.

As well as a living plan it is own right, a GI Plan can be used to influence the policies and priorities of a Neighbourhood Plan.

So do take the opportunity to help create a GI Plan for Studham...



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