



# Kingston Neighbourhood Plan

Report on Village 'Drop In' Day 26/11/16



***Kingston must retain its character as a Living Country Village!***

## 1.0 Purpose

The event was organised and managed by the Kingston Neighbourhood Task Group (NPTG) with assistance from other villagers. The purpose of the event was to identify issues and concerns, which villagers felt were of most consequence and which would, therefore, inform the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. This was the first such event but others involving different focus may be held in the future.

## 2.0 Promotion



The event was promoted through posters around the village; a banner on the village sign; an article and advertisement in the Parish Newsletter; fliers delivered to all households and to children, young people and parents at the school bus stop, and a post on the Kingston Events Group Facebook page.



## 3.0 Process

### 3.1 The event

Six notice boards were used, each containing a question, as above, but including a final question 'Anything else?' Those attending were asked to record their answers/views on 'Post Its', which were then recorded in type and sorted into themes. Six people, who were unable to attend the event, submitted views after the event.

Throughout the day, a rolling presentation of over 200 photographs was shown on a large screen, including pictures of the village, villagers, village activities and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in which Kingston is located. The South Hams AONB also provided a display.

### 3.2 Additional activities

84 people attended the Drop-In, but the NPTG was concerned at the lack of children and young people, with the age profile weighted to the older groups. Consequently two further events were arranged and took place early in December 2016 and January 2017. The first group, managed by a parent and a student from the village, involved 20 children aged from 3 – 10; the second was facilitated by a Parish Cllr/NPTG member and a volunteer young person and involved seven young people aged from 10 -16. An additional question about career aspirations was included for this group to give an idea of whether or not future aspirations

would lead to moving away from village. The children's group responded to two questions only (Q1 and Q6) and their responses were presented in pictorial form, shown at items 4.2 and 4.6.



### 3.3 Participation profile

Including attendance at the Drop-In, those who responded in writing and the group of young people aged 10-16. 20 children participated as above but are not included in this table.

Gender		Age Group							Residence see code		
M	F	0-9	10-17	18-29	30-44	45-64	65-84	84 +	A	B	C
44	54	0	8	2	2	33	52	1	87	3	Nil
45%	55%	0%	8%	2%	2%	34%	53%	1%	89%	3%	0%

**A.** Parish Resident; **B.** Second Home Owner; **C.** Other.

## 4.0 Responses

4.1 Participants spent some time in completion of 'Post Its' and talking to each other, enabling considered and thorough responses. In total, 893 responses were made from the Drop In and later associated events. 4.2 - 4.6 below show the broad topic areas and numbers of responses in each. The responses from the young people's group are given in full in 4.7. The written responses were longer and in more detail, but essentially corresponded to the broad topic areas per question as listed below.

<b>Question</b>	<b>No of Responses</b>
What is good about Kingston?	238
What is bad about Kingston?	157
What makes a village a good place to live and work?	174
What pressures affect Kingston now and in the future?	129
What needs to change?	100
Anything else?	46
Career aspirations (Young People)	6

### 4.2 What is good about Kingston?

<i>Broad topic</i>	<i>No of responses</i>
Strong community spirit and friendliness	59
AONB: Beautiful scenery and walks	52
Dark skies, no street lighting	26
Quiet and tranquil	24
Village events and Reading Room	20
Great pub	12
Size of village & housing, small balanced community	10
Off the beaten track	9
Recreation Ground	7
Safe, low crime rate	7
Church	4
Fire Station	3
Village Newsletter	2
Other	3
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>238</b>



### 4.3 What is bad about Kingston?

<i>Broad topic</i>	<i>No of responses</i>
Parking problems	28
Lack of public transport	26
Other traffic problems	15
Dog doo	14
Speeding	14
General	14
Sewage and drainage	12
Housing related issues	12
Communication issues	10
No village shop	9
Employment related issues	3
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>157</b>

#### 4.4 What makes a village a good place to live and work in?

<i>Broad topic</i>	<i>No of responses</i>
Sense of balance and integration	29
Good community spirit	11
Broad demography	14
Caring and supportive	25
Low crime	9
Amenities/benefits; activities	37
AONB/ access to rural amenities/surroundings	21
Employment	4
Children	2
Other	22
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>174</b>

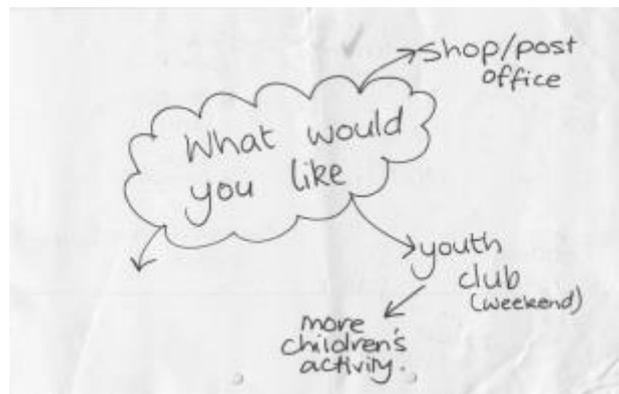
#### 4.5 What pressures affect Kingston now or in the future?

<i>Broad topic</i>	<i>No of responses</i>
Impact of large developments	39
Traffic and parking	28
Pressures on young families	13
Sewage and drainage	13
Second homes	10
Impact on range of services	12
Population profile	5
Employment issues	4
Communication	3
Lack of shop	2
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>129</b>

#### 4.6 What needs to change?

<i>Broad topic</i>	<i>No of responses</i>
Perfect as it is/careful change management	12
Lack of car parking/traffic control	17
Social/affordable/new housing	10
Gradual change needed	5
Poor broadband	5
Untidy roads	1
Sustainability, including young people.	5

Lack of public transport	8
Fewer holiday/second homes	6
No local employment	1
Provision for the elderly	2
Village to drive change, not developers.	7
Poor sewage/drainage/infrastructure.	3
Protection for rural features	4
Village amenities and events	7
Other	7
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>100</b>



#### 4.7 Anything else?

<i>Broad topic</i>	<i>No of responses</i>
Proportionate housing, affordable	32
Traffic and parking	4
Preserving unique character, history, landscape and ecology	5
Sewerage concerns	3
Other	2
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>46</b>

#### 4.8 Views of Young People (10-16 age group, 1 male, 6 females)

<b><i>What is good about Kingston?</i></b>	Beach, park, pub, friendly people. Community. Park. It's one big family. Not too busy, nice and quiet. The Pub, the community, everyone is friendly. The Pub and the park.
<b><i>What is bad about Kingston?</i></b>	Bus service. Wi-fi, no services, e.g. Regular bus. Only one bus a week. No swings for older kids in the park. No shop. Dog poo in lanes, empty holiday. Only one bus a week, poor signal.
<b><i>What needs to change?</i></b>	Restart youth club, better Wi-fi for homework and revision purposes. Nothing, really. Restart youth club. I think there should be more than one bus a week at different times. Better public transport, sort out dog mess problem. Restart youth club and more buses.
<b><i>What are the pressures on Kingston now and in the future?</i></b>	More houses/growing population. Increasing population. They're trying to build more houses. Housing is too expensive. Increasing population – if they build more houses, this would mean we'd have to build many more services.
<b><i>What career do you aspire to? (additional question to give an idea of whether or not future aspirations would lead to moving away from village)</i></b>	Teacher (x3). Marine Biology. Olympian. Vet.

### 5.0 Summary of Findings

#### 5.1 Overall views

- i. There was strong appreciation of the sense of overall community spirit of Kingston, including no/minimal crime; friendliness; support; and valued amenities and activities.
- ii. The relationship of the village to the Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) in which it sits and the surrounding rural and coastal features combine to give the village its unique character. The AONB is important to villagers.
- iii. Parking and traffic volumes, together with poor driving are significant nuisance and safety hazards. Access roads are dangerous because of the unwillingness of some to drive appropriately for narrow roads with blind corners, and limited passing spaces.

- iv. There was significant concern about expected planning applications for large housing developments in the village and the negative impact that these could have on village life, including sense of community and road safety, and on the unique features of Kingston. There was good support for small numbers of new affordable homes to meet village needs.
- v. There were significant infrastructure concerns (some of them longstanding) about flooding, general drainage; sewage overflow and the state of roads. The lack of an appropriate commercial bus service (for access to work opportunities and shopping) was also a major concern.

## 5.2 Key themes

The responses were collated into five themes as follows:-

**Housing:** concerns over impact of large development; lack of affordable housing for young people/families; numbers of second homes/holiday lets - would new build just provide more of these?

**Transport and Movement:** parking issues; concerns over large vehicles travelling through village; poor public transport.

**Environment:** a big response about the beauty of the countryside we live in, sewage and drainage, dog fouling and the need to protect the unique character of the village and the integrity of the AONB.

**Enterprise/employment:** lack of local job opportunities.

**Community wellbeing:** valuing our caring community and the range of facilities and activities we enjoy.

## 5.3 The Vision

A vision for Kingston was identified from these themes. *“Kingston must maintain its character as a living village in an area of outstanding natural beauty”.*

## 6.0 Next steps

The themes were reported through the Parish Newsletter and on the NPTG website, where residents can respond using the blog.

The main questionnaire will be developed using these themes.

JA/RM January 2017