



A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Kingston

Kingston must maintain its character as a living village in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The Questionnaire Report is on www.kingstonplan.org. Your answers to the questionnaire are presented as tables and also as bar/pie charts to help make the information clear. There were 36 questions to answer so there is a lot of information in the Report. However we felt you should be able to see all of it, and without any interpretation at this stage. The report is therefore exactly what you said.

A Report on the Very Special Questionnaire is also on the website and this one has pictures.

Finding your way through the Report: the first section includes general questions about the household, which helps us show that a representative cross section of the community responded. At an 80% plus response rate that is quite clear! The following section, Questions 1-5inc., gave an opportunity for everyone of 11yrs and over to respond. 333 of you did take the time and trouble to do so. The 2011 Census gives the Kingston population as 387. There were 824 written/text comments, where we had asked open questions, and these will also be on the website as soon as possible. Some summary information is already at the end of the Report. The end result is a lot of valuable data about what Kingston really thinks and we will be doing some further analysis as we progress with the Plan.

Please note that the following summary is a list of key points, but is not comprehensive or a substitute for reading the whole report. Comments can be made through the Contacts page on www.kingstonplan.org or the contact emails below. We would also be delighted to hear from anyone who thinks they can contribute to the discussions and next stages of developing the policies in the Plan. You do NOT have to be an expert just have a strong interest in the future of the village.

What do we now know about our community? 54% of respondents are aged 60 or over and 39, (12%), respondents reported a health issue which affects their everyday living. 23 respondents reported their mobility was affected. Factors relating to an ageing population should therefore be of concern to all of us. 39% of respondents have lived in the village for more than 20 years.

Superfast Kingston -

'not on main transport routes, but as well connected as city dwellers'

56% of households have subscribed to superfast broadband, *well above the Devon and Somerset and UK averages for rural communities. There are still a few homes

too far from, or not connected, to the two fibre cabinets. We asked Brian Mitchell if he would comment on some of the issues raised about broadband coverage; please see elsewhere in the Newsletter. He has also offered to help anyone who may need advice on subscribing to superfast.

Flooding and sewage problems

6 homes have experienced flooding by rain or sewage or both! NPTG is looking at infrastructure implications for new build.

Housing – where to build

The table at Q11 gives the actual numbers of you who commented on the suitability or otherwise of the 10 sites, proposed by landowners, for possible new housing. There is also a bar chart version showing opinion on each site's suitability. We did not ask you to rank the sites in order of suitability. The planners will assess each individual site on its suitability, not compare it with others. Nor are all the sites comparable to one another. Some are for large numbers of homes and some for single homes. Very few of us have in depth planning expertise, but that does not invalidate your opinion. Your views are based on your experience of living in Kingston and it is clear from the overall response to the questionnaire that residents gave considerable care and thought to their responses. Both NPTG and the Parish Council will take your opinions into account in making relevant decisions.

Housing – how many and what sort of new homes

51% of you think 1-10 new homes should be built over the next 20 years, which agrees with the number of new homes the South Hams/West Devon and Plymouth Joint Local Plan suggests is appropriate for the village to sustain. Their estimate is based on a consideration of the sustainability of the village, for example village facilities / distance from health services/provision of public transport etc. However, a further 36% of you do think the number could be raised to 15-20 and the JLP number is indicative not absolute.

95% of you think that these new homes – there will be new homes – should be built in small (< 10) developments and as single homes. 1 bed homes are a lower priority than 2 - 3/4 bed, and 5 bed homes are given a very low priority.

Considerable interest is shown in eco homes and sheltered accommodation, while private rental is a very low priority.

95.5% of you want new Housing Association property to come under the Local Lettings Plan.

The environment we love to live in

It is abundantly clear that Kingston residents value the natural and historic features of the parish very highly indeed. In addition 37% of text comments relate to environment and heritage. We cannot take it for granted that these will automatically be protected and ***we are asking for your help in building the evidence base to help do this***. See later on in this article.

Over 90% of respondents highly value the dark night skies. Any discussion on details of new build/development must take this very strong view into account.

Smaller scale forms of renewable energy are supported by many, but there is less support for wind turbines and solar panels on open farmland.

Transport- more vehicles, less parking space

Respondents own/have responsibility for a total of 334 vehicles, (2011 Census = 298 cars/vans) and 50 of these are parked on the road. Text comments on parking head the list of concerns expressed by respondents. See also comments on bad driving below.

Only 8 respondents ever use Fare Car, but 61 use the Friday bus at least occasionally. 9 respondents use private taxis regularly and a further 104 occasionally. The taxi/Fare Car figures could be related to the limited service now offered by Fare Car. Fare Car journeys are shared with residents of Bigbury and Ringmore which might increase numbers overall. The figures for potential use of other suggested bus routes may be useful, especially as the bus would also serve Bigbury and Ringmore.

Walking to the Dolphin!

The public footpaths and the Dolphin compete to head the list of most used community amenities! The village Newsletter continues to be the most used source of information for parishioners followed by word of mouth and the noticeboards.

Bad driving and parking concerns

Bad driving and litter cause most concern although parking comes through strongly in the text comments. 18% of text comments are about concerns and suggestions associated with speeding.

Working from home and Kingston based businesses

44% of respondents are retired and 47% are working, 12% of these work part time and 15% are self-employed, the latter is becoming known as a feature of many rural/isolated communities.

15% of respondents work at home. 40 respondents run a business, 7 of these run 2 or 3 businesses giving a total of **48 businesses** run in/from Kingston. 9 of these businesses employ others. 40% of respondents think there is a need for employment opportunities in Kingston. Issues are also raised in the text responses on suitable premises for business and poor transport links.

Values

Q 35 was based on values. It gave a series of statements and asked for the extent of respondents' agreement or disagreement. Respondents could tick as many boxes as they wished. This was not a 'wash up' question, but intended to seek out your views on the character of Kingston in a balanced way. The values you have supported, so very clearly, back up the Neighbourhood Plan vision statement, which emerged from

the Village Drop in in November 2016.

Our remote rural character, special qualities and key features of land and seascape are very strongly endorsed. Most respondents thought the single access lanes should be preserved and there was little support for bringing the local highways and access to the village up to 'modern' standards. Most respondents prefer traditional design for housing although good contemporary design is not ruled out

Second and holiday homes

There are clearly strong reservations about second and holiday homes, but some support for the contribution they make to the village. 15 second/holiday home owners responded to the questionnaire.

A paper copy of both the Site Assessment Report and the Questionnaire Report are available in the Reading Room and the Church for those without access to the Neighbourhood Plan website. If you cannot find a copy please contact the Clerk.

What is so special about Kingston? YOUR COMMENTS NEEDED

We all believe that Kingston is a very special place – but what exactly are the features of the parish that make it so distinctive?

At the Drop-In session, held back in November 2016, to kick-off the Neighbourhood Plan, participants posted up their thoughts about living in the village. One of the key themes that came out of this exercise was that people really appreciate the environment of the parish. The responses to the Questionnaire have strongly reinforced the importance that residents attach to the landscape, wildlife and also the rich history of Kingston.

As we develop some firm *policies* for the Neighbourhood Plan, we need to actually pin-down the physical and cultural features of Kingston that contribute to its distinctiveness. This will help us to develop policies that protect and enhance what is important.

The draft **Kingston Plan Character Assessment** is an attempt to do just that. The document starts with a brief profile of the parish, followed by descriptions of the geology, landscape, wildlife habitats and also the historical development of Kingston.

Please take a few minutes to read through the draft Character Assessment on www.kingstonplan.org – any suggestions for additions or corrections would be very welcome! Send these directly to richard@rdalley.demon.co.uk or through the Contact page on the website

Do not forget you can contact us anytime through: Judy Alloway 810692, allowayjudy1@gmail.com or Flo Watts 810019, flowatts1@gmail.com or through our website, www.kingstonplan.org