Kimbolton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Community Survey Report

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September 2016

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1.0   Introduction

1.1   Background

1.1.1   Kimbolton Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish area. As part of this process the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group conducted a community survey in the summer of 2016. The survey gave all households in the area the opportunity to express an opinion on the future development of the area.

1.1.2   This Report summarises the findings of the survey and is a crucial element of the evidence base to inform the next stages of the preparation of the Plan.

1.2   Scoping, distribution and response

1.2.1   The survey was designed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in the Spring and early Summer of 2016. The survey questions were based on the issues raised at the Neighbourhood Plan Launch event in April 2016, and through ongoing evidence gathering, including understanding the implications of the Herefordshire Core Strategy adopted in October 2015.

1.2.2   The survey takes the form of both closed and open ended questions. This mix allows questions to focus on obtaining specific pieces of information tailored at responding to certain issues or themes (closed questions), whilst allowing a degree of freedom in the responses which people provide (open questions). The survey form is attached as Appendix 1.

1.2.3   The survey was delivered to all households in the area as identified on the electoral roll. The forms were collected by volunteers recruited by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group so as to maximise the response rate.   The survey was also publicised in the Parish Magazine in June and July.

1.2.4   151 survey forms were returned. This equates to a response rate of 73% which is sufficiently high for the survey to be a statistically robust sample of the population of the area.

1.3   Report contents and presentation of the findings

1.3.1   The findings of the survey are summarised in this Report. The Structure of the Report corresponds to the layout of the survey and is made up of seven sections, preceded by a summary of the key findings.

1.3.2   The individual sections of the Report are:
Part A – About you

Part B – Vision and General issues
Part C – Housing
Part D – Community facilities
Part E – Traffic and transport
Part F – Environment and landscape
Part G – Utilities and services

1.3.3   The responses are presented in a combination of graphs, charts and a narrative summarising the main findings.

2.0   Summary of key findings

The survey
The survey achieved an exemplary response of 151 returns which represents 73% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The responses reveal a stable and settled population typical of a rural Herefordshire Parish.

Likes, Dislikes and Vision for the Future
Local people like living in the area and they would like to see it stay broadly the same over the Neighbourhood Plan period. The beautiful countryside, peace and tranquillity and a close and friendly community are those features of the area that people like most. Speeding traffic, poor broadband / mobile phone and badly maintained roads are the most common 'dislikes'.

Housing
There is little support for significant additional housing growth over the Neighbourhood Plan period in excess of that which already has planning permission. The most popular strategy is one of small scale infill development in Kimbolton village, and some development in the countryside mainly through the conversion of existing rural buildings. New housing should be focussed on the provision of Starter Homes and owner occupied tenures to meet low-cost local needs.

Community facilities
The priorities for community facilities were the retention of the village school and pub. There is some support for a village play area, village green and village sports field.

Traffic and transport
Local people are concerned about the speed of traffic through Kimbolton. The key measures identified to address this are enforcement of the existing speed limit and investigating opportunities for traffic calming. The A4112 at the village school and the Stockton Cross crossroads are the priorities for highway improvements to enhance road safety, and there is strong support for a footpath link between Kimbolton village and the A49.

Environment and landscape
Trees and hedgerows, the network of fields and views are the most important features of the area for local people. The most significant threats are perceived to be over-development, unsympathetically designed new housing and additional traffic. Local people would like to see a traditional approach to the design of new development and using local materials.

Utilities and services
Road maintenance, improved broadband speeds and better mobile phone coverage ranked as the most important priorities for infrastructure investment. Water supply, sewerage and drainage were identified as secondary priorities.

3.0   Detailed summary of the survey responses

3.1   Part A – About you

3.1.1   The first section of the survey asked people about themselves and the characteristics of their household in order to help to build up a better profile of the local community. By comparing the results with data from the 2011 census it is also possible to understand whether the survey responses are representative of the community as a whole.

A1. Place of residence

3.1.2   The extent of the Neighbourhood Plan area is shown in Map 1 below.
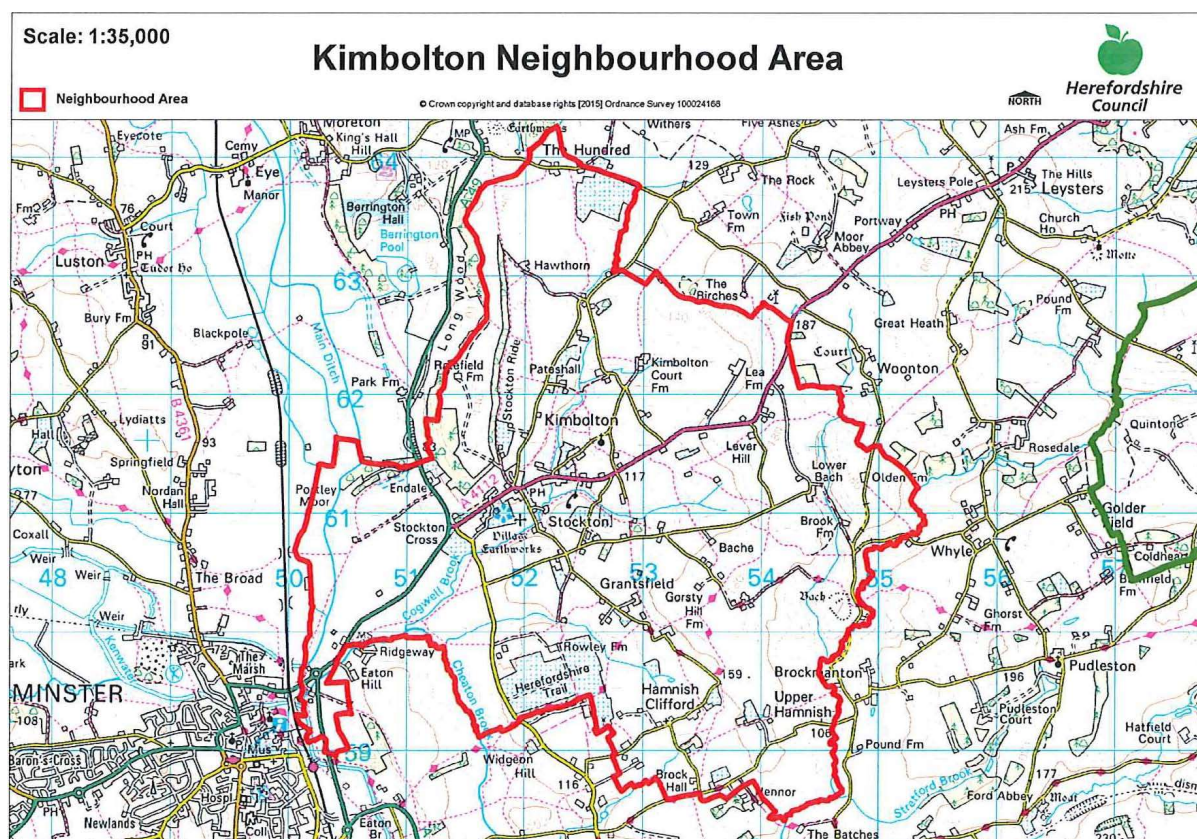
3.1.3   The survey responses are geographically representative of the whole of the Plan area. Of the 151 responses only 10 did not provide a full postcode. Of those who did provide their postcode the breakdown is as follows:

- Kimbolton village – 62 responses (44% of responses providing a postcode and approximately 83% of households in the village))
- Northern rural (north of A4112) – 29 responses (21% of responses providing a postcode)
- Southern rural (south of A4112) – 50 responses (35% of responses providing a postcode)

3.1.4   The 2011 census identifies 207 households in the Plan area with Kimbolton village being the largest settlement with around 75 dwellings or 36% of households. The majority of households (64%) in the Neighbourhood Plan area located in the countryside – either in smaller settlements such as Hamnish and the Hundred, free standing homes, or complexes of converted former agricultural buildings. Within the countryside outside Kimbolton village, the majority of households are located in the area to the south of the A4112. The survey responses are therefore broadly representative of the geographical distribution of households in the area, but with a slight over-representation of Kimbolton village.
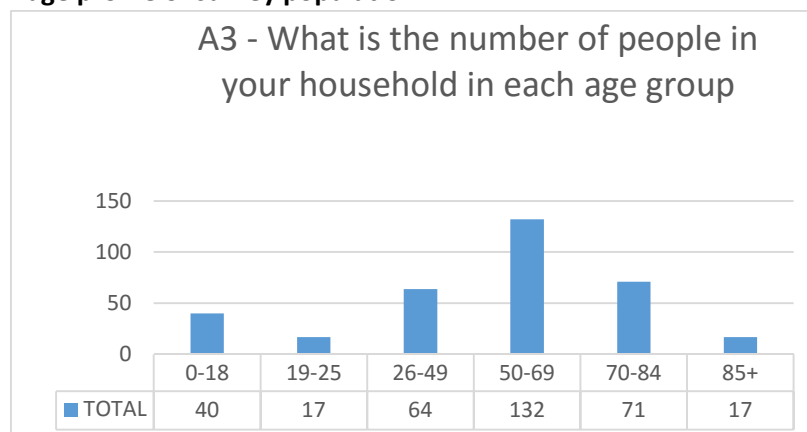
A2. Household size

3.1.5   Within the 151 households represented by the survey live 342 people. This represents 73.0% of households and 72.5% of the population when measured against the 2011 census. The average household size of the survey responses was 2.3 people – the same as identified in the 2011 census.

A3. Age profile

3.1.6   The age profile of the survey response households is shown in Chart 1 below. 149 responses (99%) were made to this question. The survey population is characterised by middle-aged and older age groups, with 64% of people aged 50 and over, and 17% aged 25 and under. The equivalent 2011 census data tells us that 62% of the population was aged 45 and over, and 21% aged 25 and under. The survey population is therefore broadly comparable with the 2011 census.
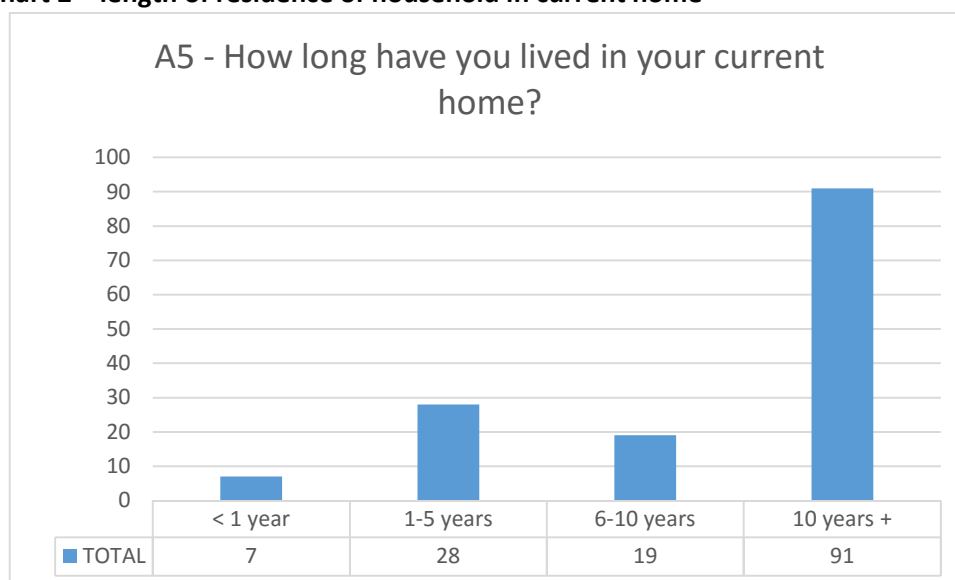
Chart 1 – age profile of survey population

A3 - What is the number of people in your household in each age group

	0-18	19-25	26-49	50-69	70-84	85+
TOTAL	40	17	64	132	71	17

A5. Length of residence

3.1.7   Question A5 asked about the length of residence of households and 146 responses (97%) were made. The survey reveals a settled and stable population with over 60% of households having lived in the area for more than ten years. This profile is shown in Chart 2 below.

Chart 2 – length of residence of household in current home

A5 - How long have you lived in your current home?

	< 1 year	1-5 years	6-10 years	10 years +
TOTAL	7	28	19	91

3.2 Part B – Vision and general issues

3.2.1 Part B of the survey sought the views of the community on what they like and dislike about the area and what are the most important issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to consider.

B1. What do like about living in the area?

3.2.2 136 (90%) respondents completed this question with 79 responses identifying multiple 'likes'. The survey reveals 253 'likes' in total with a very strong focus on the physical character of the area and the sense of peace and tranquility. The most important 'likes' are listed below:

- Rural character and beautiful countryside – 68 responses
- Peace, quiet and tranquillity – 64 responses
- Close and friendly community – 37 responses
- Accessibility to local towns – 15 responses

B2. What do you dislike about living in the area?

3.2.3 123 (82%) respondents completed this question of which 32 stated there to be 'nothing' they disliked about living in the area. There were 119 'dislikes' in total with a strong focus on physical infrastructure. The most significant dislikes were:

- Speeding traffic and HGVs – 21 responses
- Poor broadband and mobile phone coverage – 20 responses
- Badly maintained roads – 18 responses
- Lack of public transport – 15 responses

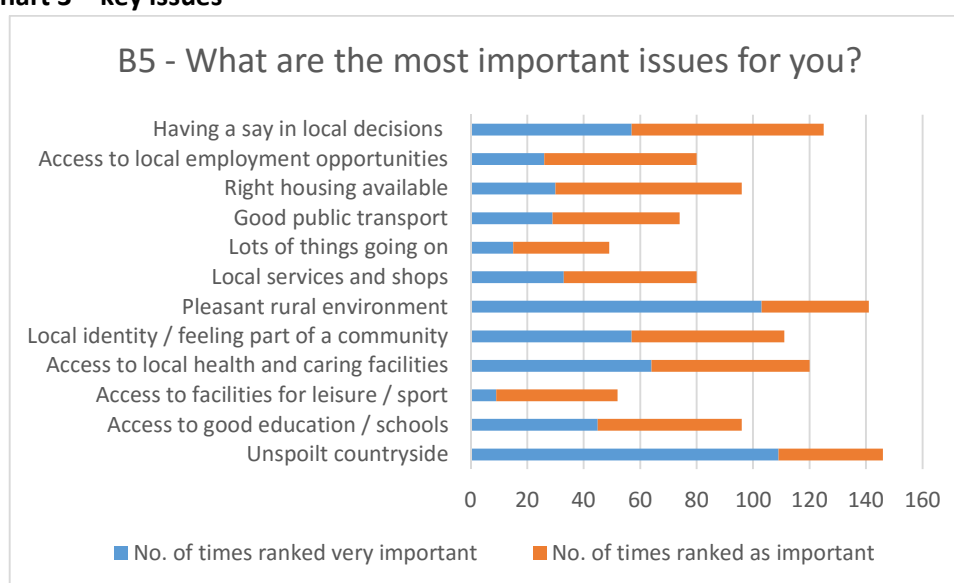### B4. What changes and improvements would you like to see?

3.2.4 The survey asked respondents to identify what changes they would like to see over the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan to address the issues which had been raised in the previous questions. 122 respondents (81%) completed this question and a total of 172 suggestions were made, of which 11 stated that 'nothing' should be changed.

3.2.5 Of those suggestions for changes and improvements, there is a strong relationship to the answers to the 'likes' and 'dislikes' questions summarised above with a focus on addressing deficiencies in the infrastructure of the area. The most popular responses were:

- Better maintained roads – 31 responses
- Better broadband and mobile phone coverage – 21 responses

- A bus service / better public transport – 18 responses
- Traffic calming and speed enforcement – 14 responses
- Reduce HGV through traffic – 8 responses

B5. Key issues for the community

3.2.6   Building on questions B1, B2 and B4, question B5 sought to understand the priority issues for the Plan to address.   150 of the 151 respondents completed this question and the results are set out in Chart 3 below.

Chart 3 – key issues

B5 - What are the most important issues for you?

■ No. of times ranked very important   ■ No. of times ranked as important

3.2.7   The responses are broadly consistent with the answers to the previous questions. There is a strong emphasis on the physical character of the area with 'unspoilt countryside' and 'pleasant rural environment' being the two highest priority issues. But it is also significant that the wider social inclusion issues of 'having a say in local decisions', 'access to local health and caring facilities' and 'feeling part of a community' also scored very highly. The priority given to the peace and tranquillity of the area identified in question B1 is reflected in the lack of importance given to 'lots of things going on' and 'access to facilities for leisure / sport'.
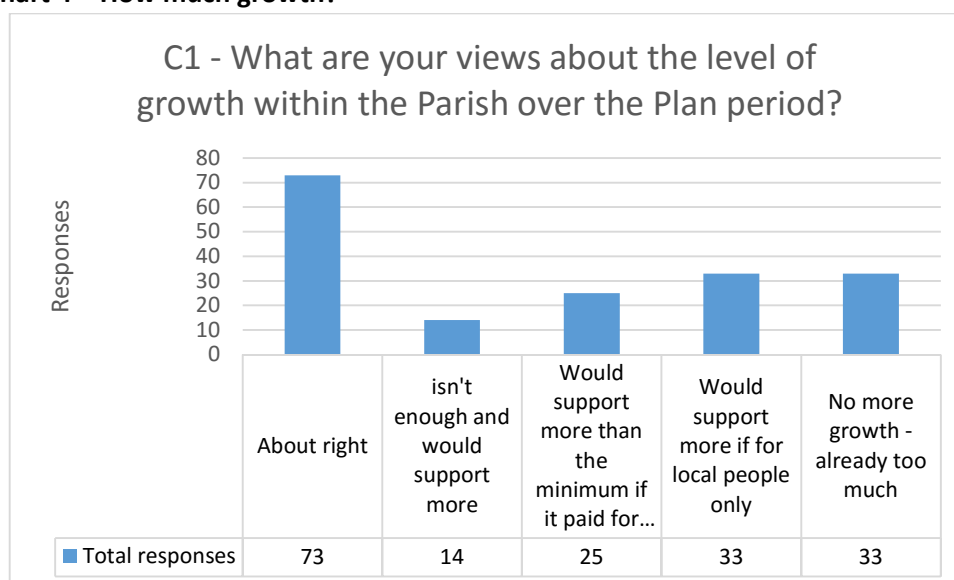
3.3   Part C – Housing

3.3.1   Part C of the survey sought the views of the community on housing issues. The community were asked for their views on the overall level of growth, the geographical distribution and scale of new housing, and what tenure mix and housing type should be planned for.

C1. How much growth should be planned for?

3.3.2   The Herefordshire Core Strategy provides a minimum target of 30 new houses that should be provided in the area over the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan. This target has already been met through a combination of houses that have already been built and planning permissions which have been granted.

Chart 4 – How much growth?

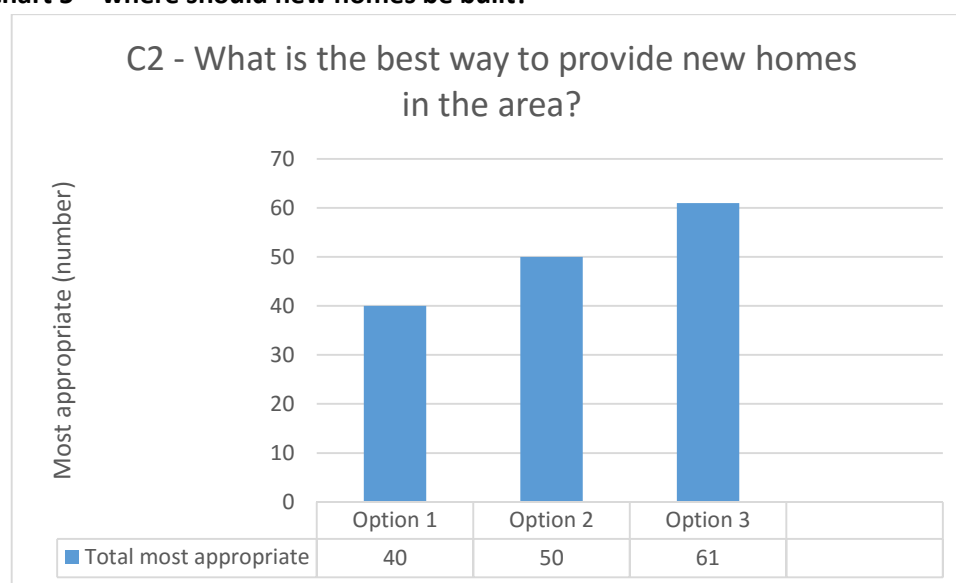|	About right	isn't enough and would support more	Would support more than the minimum if it paid for…	Would support more if for local people only	No more growth - already too much
■ Total responses	73	14	25	33	33

3.3.3   Chart 4 sets out the responses to this issue. The survey shows that the majority of responses do not wish to see any further significant housing growth in the Parish over and above that already built or with planning permission – stating that the current level of growth was either 'about right' (73 responses) or was already too much (33 responses). Of those 72 responses supporting additional growth then this was expressed either unconditionally (14 responses), if it paid for new community facilities only (25 responses) or if it is for local people only (33 responses).

C2. Where should the new homes be built?

3.3.4   The survey sought views on the geographical distribution of new housing in the area. The Herefordshire Core Strategy directs the majority of new development to Kimbolton village.

It also allows for some development in the countryside, mainly through the conversion of existing buildings.   In the context of the Core Strategy the survey put forward three options. The first option is a continued focus on Kimbolton village to include infill development and some housing development on larger sites where this could provide community benefits including affordable housing and open space. The second option was for limited infill in Kimbolton including development on sites of less than five dwellings. The third option was for a more restricted approach to development in Kimbolton, limited to infill on plots of 1-2 houses only. All three options involve some limited additional homes in the countryside consistent with the Core Strategy. The survey results on this issue are set out in Chart 5 below.

Chart 5 – where should new homes be built?

C2 - What is the best way to provide new homes in the area?

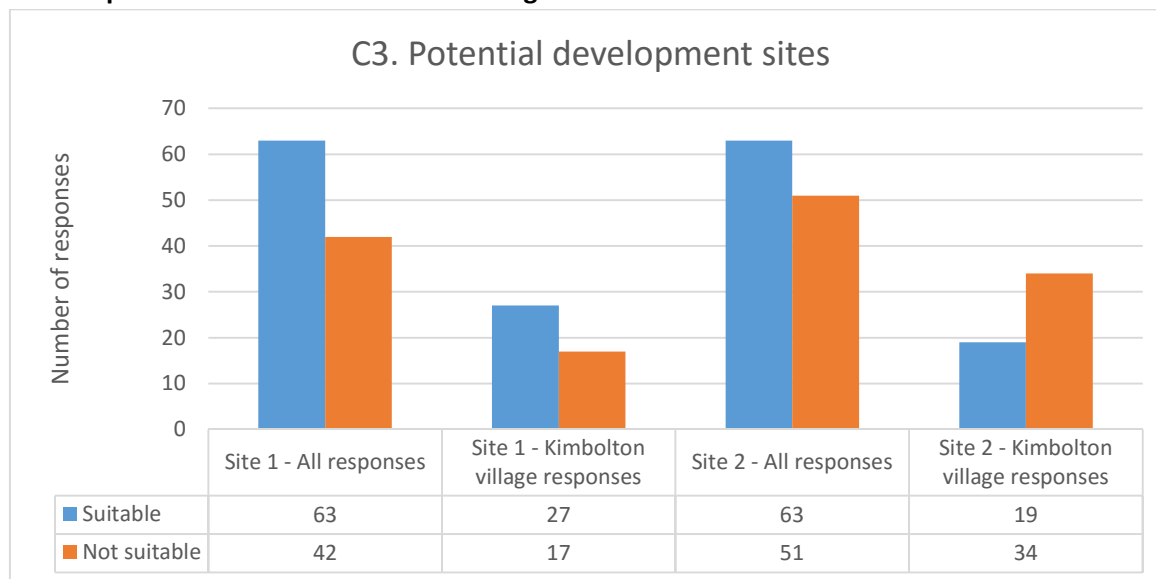|	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Total most appropriate	40	50	61

3.3.5   Option 3 was the most popular – with 61 responses regarding this as the most appropriate. This is consistent with views on the overall level of growth in the Parish as identified in the responses to Question C1

C3. What are the best sites for new housing development?

3.3.6   At the Neighbourhood Plan Launch Event in April 2016 a number of sites were identified by the community as potential locations for new housing. The survey sought views on two sites which were the most suggested at the Launch Event, both of which are in Kimbolton Village – the field on the northern side of the A4112 between the Stockton Cross Pub and the Cogwell Brook, and secondly an extension of the site which has recently secured planning permission to the north of Chestnut Avenue. The results are shown on Chart 6 below.

Chart 6 – potential locations for new housing

C3. Potential development sites

|	Site 1 - All responses	Site 1 - Kimbolton village responses	Site 2 - All responses	Site 2 - Kimbolton village responses
Suitable	63	27	63	19
Not suitable	42	17	51	34

3.3.7   121 responses were made in relation to site 1 and 117 to site 2 and of these responses, 105 made a clear view on whether the sites were suitable or not. There was no clear consensus on preferences between the two sites – both having a marginal majority of responses regarding them as being suitable. But slightly more people regarded site 2 as being unsuitable compared with site 1. Traffic impact and road safety concerns were the most commonly stated reasons why both sites were unsuitable – 19 responses in the case of site 1 and 16 for site 2. Flooding was also expressed as a concern in 8 responses in relation to site 1, and concerns of overdevelopment a particular issue in relation to site 2 (16 responses).

3.3.8   There is however a distinct difference of views on the suitability of the two sites depending on where the survey respondents live. Chart 6 shows that the responses from Kimbolton village residents expressed a preference for site 1. It is also significant that the majority of those responses who regarded site 2 as being unsuitable were from Kimbolton residents. The responses to this and the previous question will inform the approach taken to the need to consider whether any site should be specifically identified for development in the Neighbourhood Plan.

C4. What is the preferred tenure for new homes?

3.3.9   The Neighbourhood Plan can specify what tenure of new homes should be provided in the area. The survey identified five tenure types and requested views on which should be the highest priority. The results are set out in Chart 7 below.

Chart 7 – Preferred tenure of new homes
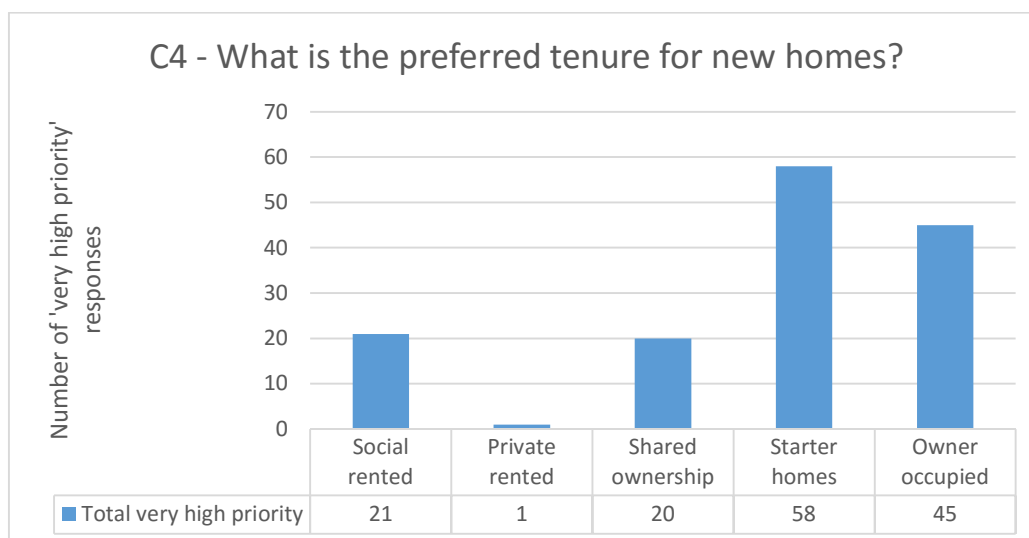
3.3.10 Starter homes were identified as the highest priority – cited as the most important by 58 respondents. Owner occupied housing was considered to be the next most important with 45 responses, followed by social rented (normally provided by a Housing Association) (21 responses) and shared ownership (20 responses). Private rented was considered to be the most important tenure by only one response.

C5. What types of homes are needed?

3.3.11 The Neighbourhood Plan provides an opportunity to influence the mix of housing types provided in the area and can specify, for example whether new homes should be large detached family homes, self-build or affordable housing for local people. The results are shown in Chart 8 below.

Chart 8 – Preferred housing type
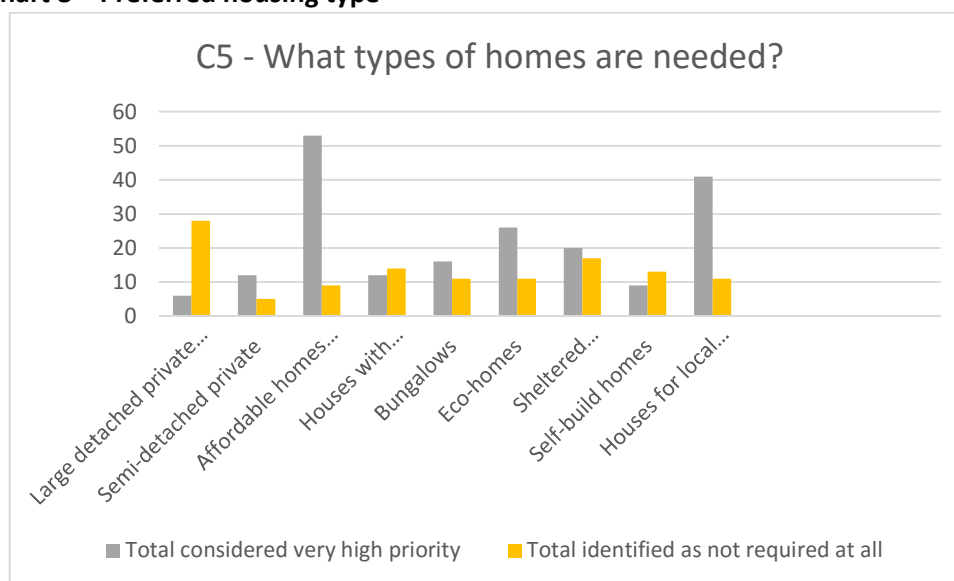
3.3.12   Affordable housing including starter homes was regarded as the highest priority form of new housing in the area (53 responses), followed by housing exclusively for local people (41 responses) and eco-homes (26 responses). The least popular form of new housing was large detached private houses – identified as not required by 28 responses.

C6. What are the main challenges to the building of new homes in the Parish?

3.3.13   The survey asked for views on potential constraints to the building of new homes in the area. A total of 65 comments were made from the 49 responses. This relatively low level of response suggests that the local community does not perceive there to be any overarching 'showstopping' constraints to new development. Of the responses made, the most frequently raised were in relation to balancing the impact of new development on the character of the area (20 comments). The capacity of the existing infrastructure was also identified as a challenge – in particular sewerage and drainage (13 responses) and roads (six responses).

3.4   Part D – Community facilities

3.4.1   The Neighbourhood Plan has a critical role to play in protecting important community assets and encouraging the provision of new facilities.

D1. Community asset priorities

3.4.2   The survey sought views on community facility priorities for the Neighbourhood Plan to consider and the results are summarised in Chart 9 below.

Chart 9 – community facility priorities
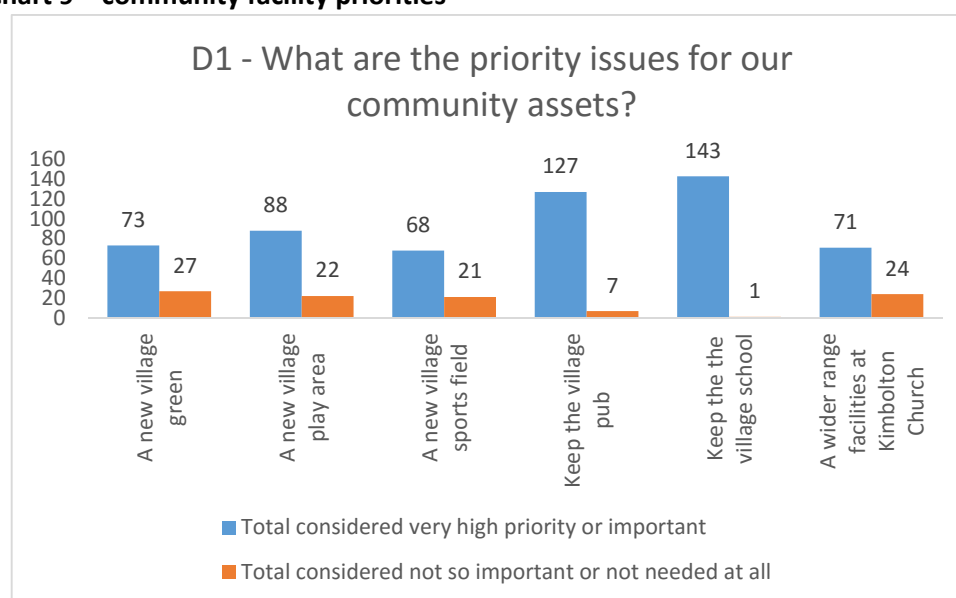
3.4.3   147 responses were made to this question. The key priorities related to the protection of existing key facilities – keeping the village school (143 responses) and keeping the village Pub (127 responses). The highest priority in terms of new community facilities was a village play area (88 responses), a new village green (73 responses) and a village sports field (68 responses).

D2. Where should the following new facilities be located?
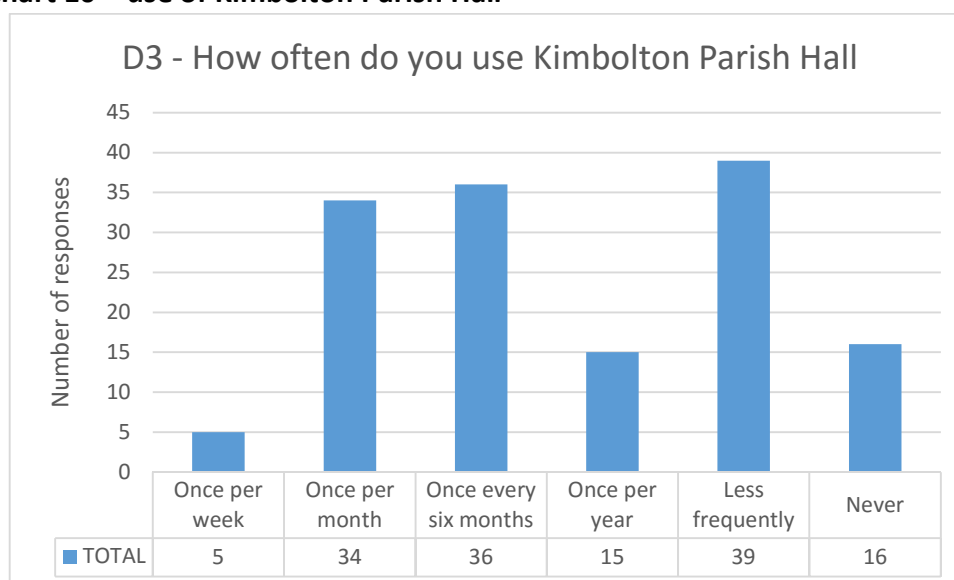
3.4.4   The survey sought views on the most suitable location for new facilities with specific reference to Village greens, a Village play area and a Village sports field.

3.4.5   79 suggestions were made to the location of a village green. Site 1 identified in question C3 (the field beneath Stockton Court on the northern side of the A4112) was by far the most

popular location (34 suggestions), with other suggestions including 'by the pub' (nine suggestions) and question C3 site 2 (seven suggestions). 62 suggestions were made to the location of a village play area. Again, site 1 was the most popular location (29 responses) followed by the field behind the village hall (13 responses). 45 suggestions were made to the location of a village sports field. The most popular location was next to or at the school (16 suggestions) followed by site 1 (14 suggestions).

D3. Use of the Parish Hall?

3.4.6   The Parish Hall in Kimbolton is a key asset for the whole of the Neighbourhood Plan area and the survey sought to understand how frequently it is used by local people. 145 responses were made to question D3 and the results are set out in Chart 10 below.

Chart 10 – use of Kimbolton Parish Hall

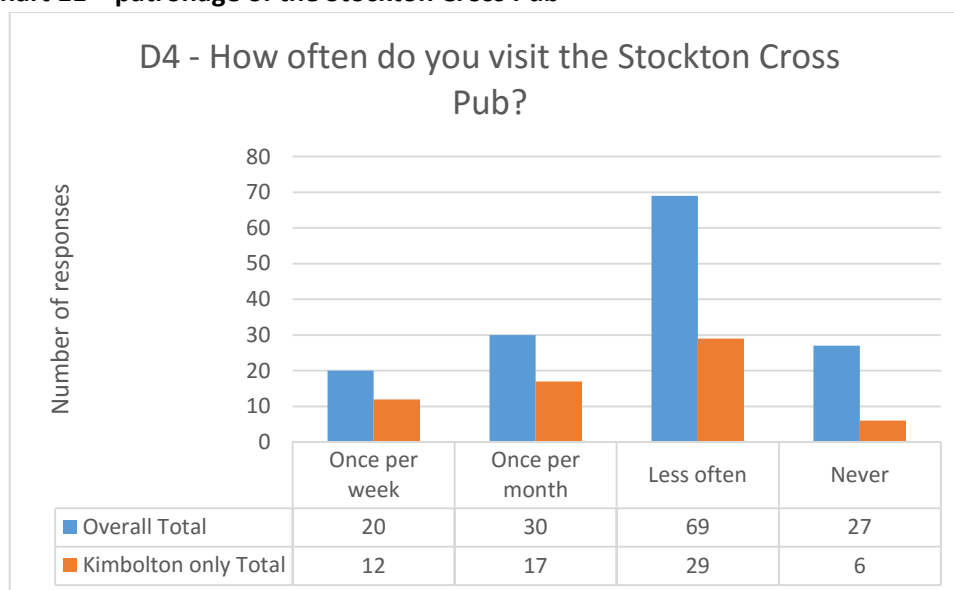|	Once per week	Once per month	Once every six months	Once per year	Less frequently	Never
TOTAL	5	34	36	15	39	16

3.4.7   Chart 10 shows that the Parish Hall enjoys regular, if not frequent use by the community. Very few people have never used it, with over 50% of respondents using it at least once every six months.   Question D3 also asked what improvements could be made to encourage greater use of the Parish Hall. 13 comments were made and included improved access arrangements and a wider range of events including guest speakers and live music.

D5. The Stockton Cross Pub

3.4.8   The retention of the Stockton Cross Pub in Kimbolton village has been seen to be an important priority by the local community in question D1 but Chart 11 shows that levels of patronage by the local community is limited.

Chart 11 – patronage of the Stockton Cross Pub

D4 - How often do you visit the Stockton Cross Pub?

|	Once per week	Once per month	Less often	Never
Overall Total	20	30	69	27
Kimbolton only Total	12	17	29	6

3.4.9   146 responses were made to question D4. Chart 11 shows that 50 respondents (34%) visited the Pub once per month or more, with 27 never having been there. Levels of patronage are higher for those respondents who live in Kimbolton village - of those 64 respondents living in Kimbolton who answered this question, 29 (45%) used the pub at least once per month. Question D4 also sought views on what would encourage higher levels of patronage. Only nine suggestions were made, mainly focussed around enhancing the food on offer.

D6. The village shop at the Stockton Cross Pub

3.4.10   The village shop is located at the Stockton Cross Pub and provides a range of day to day convenience goods. The survey sought views on how often local people used the shop and the results are summarised in Chart 12 below.

Chart 12 – use of the Village shop at the Stockton Cross Pub
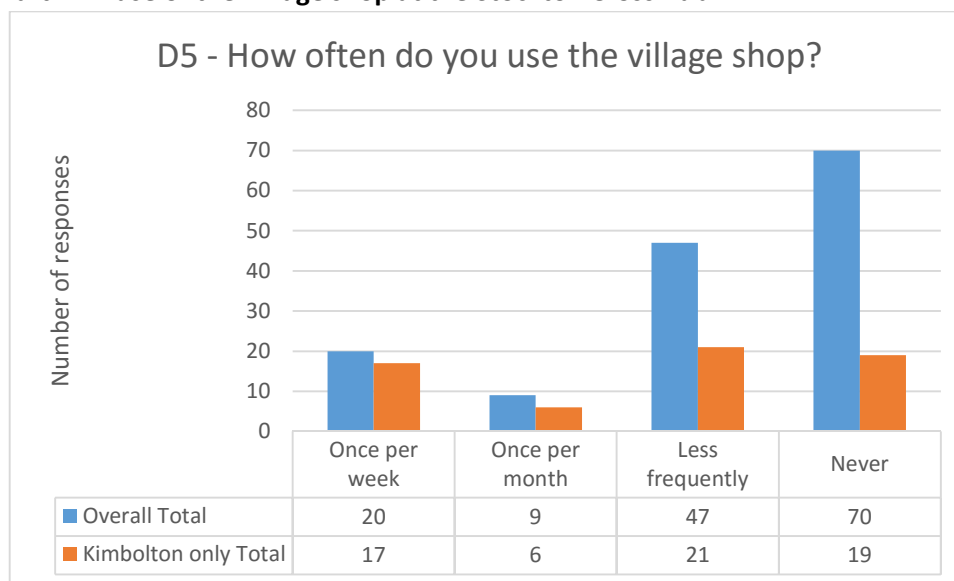
3.4.11   146 responses were made to question D5, of which 63 were Kimbolton residents. As with the Stockton Cross Pub, levels of usage are relatively low with only 29 people in total (20%) using it at least one per month and 70 people (48%) having never used it. However, for Kimbolton residents the levels of usage are much higher, with 23 (37%) using it at least once per month and only 19 (30%) having never used it. As with the previous questions, the survey sought to understand what improvements could be made to enhance patronage. 12 suggestions were made including a wider range of goods, longer opening hours and better advertising.

D6. Are there any other community facilities that you think should be provided for specific age groups?

3.4.12   The survey asked whether there are any particular facilities that should be provided to meet the needs of particular age groups and 110 suggestions were made. For the under 12s, the most popular suggestion was for a play area or playing pitch (17 suggestions). Social events were more frequently identified for the under 21s (11 suggestions) and for the over 60s (17 suggestions).

3.5   Part E – Traffic and transport

3.5.1   Traffic and transport was cited as one of the most important issues at the Neighbourhood Plan Launch Event and the community survey sought to better understand these concerns and what measures could be put in place to address them.

3.5.2   The survey contained a number of questions on traffic speeds, road safety measures and the provision of additional facilities including footpaths.

E1. The speed of traffic through Kimbolton

3.5.3   The speed of traffic through Kimbolton has emerged as the most significant transportation issue. 65% of the 135 respondents were concerned at traffic speeds through the village. Of those 61 residents of Kimbolton village who answered this question, 80% were concerned at the speed of traffic.

E2. What would you do to address this?

3.5.4   In order to address this problem, 106 comments were made identifying a wide range of measures. The most popular were speed enforcement cameras (24 suggestions), traffic calming (24 suggestions) and either reducing the existing 30 mph speed limit or extending the length of road it covers (18 suggestions).

E3. Would you support the use of additional road marking and / or road surface?

3.5.5   Potential measures to address traffic speeds include road marking or road surfacing and 62% of the 107 responses support the use of this approach.

3.5.6   The survey also sought views on where this approach would be most suitable and 52 suggestions were made. The two most popular locations were by the Pub /Stockton Cross road junction (20 comments) and at the School (17 responses). Other suggestions included by the Parish Hall (nine responses) and at either end of the village (six responses).

E4. Pedestrian crossings in Kimbolton village

3.5.7   Given concerns over traffic speeds, the survey asked whether pedestrian crossings would assist with road safety in Kimbolton village, or whether they would spoil its character.

3.5.8   The majority of respondents felt that this approach either would spoil the character of the village or was not necessary – only 12 of the 114 responses suggesting that pedestrian crossing points would be appropriate.

E5. Proposals that involved altering the physical features of parts of the village to increase visibility

3.5.9   Altering physical features in order to improve visibility can assist with addressing some road safety concerns. 100 responses were submitted to this questions, of which the great majority (76) did not support such a proposal. Of the 24 responses which supported such a proposal, 11 made suggestions on where alterations should be made. These included exiting the school car park (five comments), at the Stockton Cross cross-roads (three comments) and exiting the Parish Hall (two comments).

E6. Permanent speed indicator devices in Kimbolton

3.5.10   There was strong support for the introduction of permanent speed indicator devices in Kimbolton village. 87 (69%) of the 127 responses supported this proposal. Of the 56 responses made by residents of Kimbolton village, the proportion of those supporting speed indicator devices was even higher at 80%
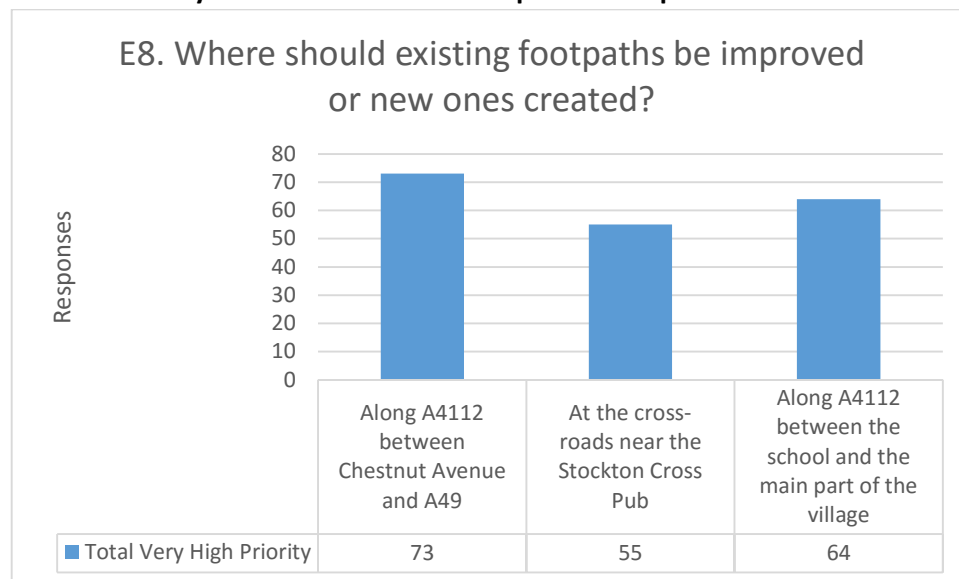
E7. Funding permanent speed indicator devices

3.5.11   In spite of the significant support for permanent speed indicator devices as identified in the previous question, those willing to pay for it through an increase in Council Tax were in a minority. Of the 115 responses to this question, 55% were not willing to pay more Council Tax. However, of the 53 responses made by residents of Kimbolton village, a slight majority stated that they would be willing to pay more Council Tax, confirming the theme from question E6 that speeding is considered to be more of an issue in Kimbolton village than elsewhere in the Parish.

E.8 Where are new footpaths needed or existing footpaths improved?

3.5.12   At the Neighbourhood Plan Launch event pedestrian safety and public footpaths in particular were raised as a significant concern. Three locations were identified where the community stated that this issue was most significant and the survey sought to understand their relative priority for improvement. The results are shown in Chart 13.

Chart 13 – Priority locations for new and improved footpaths

E8. Where should existing footpaths be improved or new ones created?

	Along A4112 between Chestnut Avenue and A49	At the cross-roads near the Stockton Cross Pub	Along A4112 between the school and the main part of the village
■ Total Very High Priority	73	55	64

Responses (y-axis, 0 to 80)

3.5.13 139 responses were made to this question, though not all responses commented on each of the options. All of the locations were identified as being priorities by a significant number of responses, the highest priority being a new footpath along the stretch of the A4112 between Chestnut Avenue and the A49, linking up with the footpath and cycle way into Leominster. A number of other locations were identified, the most significant being where the A4112 crosses the Cogwell Brook (five suggestions).

3.6   Part F – Environment and landscape

3.6.1   The physical character of the area has been identified as one of the most important issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to consider.

3.6.2   The survey sought to understand what features make up this special character and how this could be protected and enhanced in the future.

F1. What are the most important features which make up the character of the area?

3.6.3   Chart 14 below summarises the views of local people on the most important features which make up the character of the area.   There were 146 responses to this question.

Chart 14 – the Character of the area
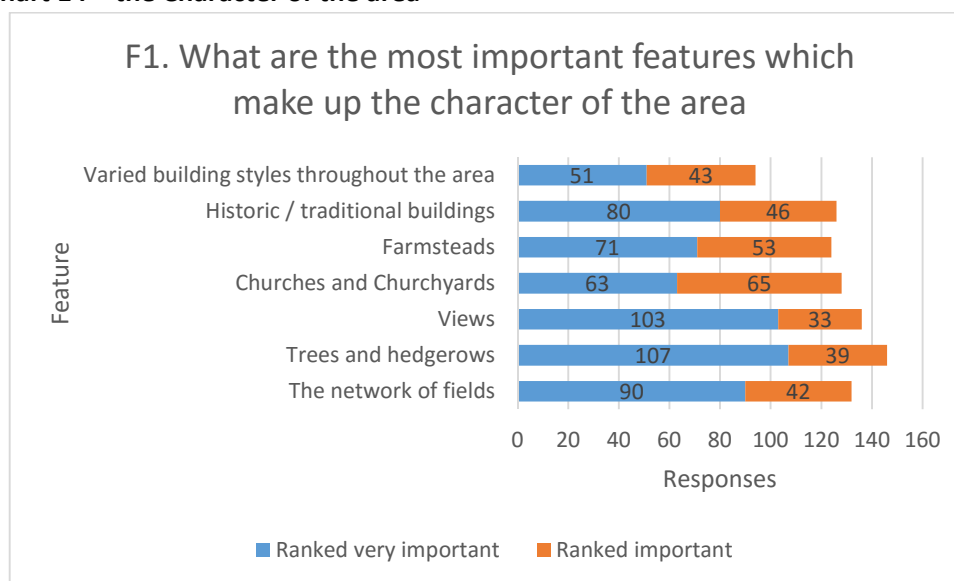
3.6.4   Given the deeply rural character of the area it is perhaps not surprising that 'trees and hedgerows' were seen as the most important feature in the character of the area (107 responses), followed by 'views' (103 responses) and the network of fields (90 responses). The built heritage was of secondary importance, but still significant, with farmsteads, churches and churchyards and historic / traditional buildings being considered as very important or important by over 50% of responses.

F2. Are there any important views that you think should be protected?

3.6.5   The survey asked whether there are any particular views that should be protected. 54 responses were made to this question, of which 45 answered yes. In terms of specific views,

55 were identified. The most significant were of and from Kimbolton Church (20 suggestions), Bache Camp (eight suggestions) and the long distance views from the high ground around Lever Hill (six suggestions).

F3. Threats to the character of the area

3.6.6   The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a long term framework to manage the process of change in the area and the survey asked local people what they thought were the main threats to its character.

3.6.7   131 comments were made from 101 respondents, the most significant threat seen as over-development (56 comments) and unsympathetically designed new housing not in keeping with the character of the area (22 comments). Other threats included additional traffic (15 comments) and light pollution (five comments).

F4. Protection and improvement of wildlife habitats

3.6.8   The area has a rich ecology which the Neighbourhood Plan can help to protect and enhance. The survey sought views on what could be done to protect and improve wildlife habitats and 97 suggestions were made by 90 respondents.

3.6.9   A wide variety of suggestions were made. The most common suggestions were the retention and enhancement of hedgerows (15 comments), more tree and orchard planting / protection of existing trees and woodland (13 comments) and protection of watercourses (five comments).

F5. Artificial lighting

3.6.10 Artificial lighting is an essential part of modern living but if it is poorly directed and / or poorly set up it can cause light pollution. The Neighbourhood Plan can establish a set of policies and principles to control artificial lighting associated with new development. The survey asked local people for their views on how much importance the Neighbourhood Plan should give to controlling light pollution both in Kimbolton village and the surrounding countryside. There were 142 responses and the results are summarised in Chart 15 below.

Chart 15 – light pollution
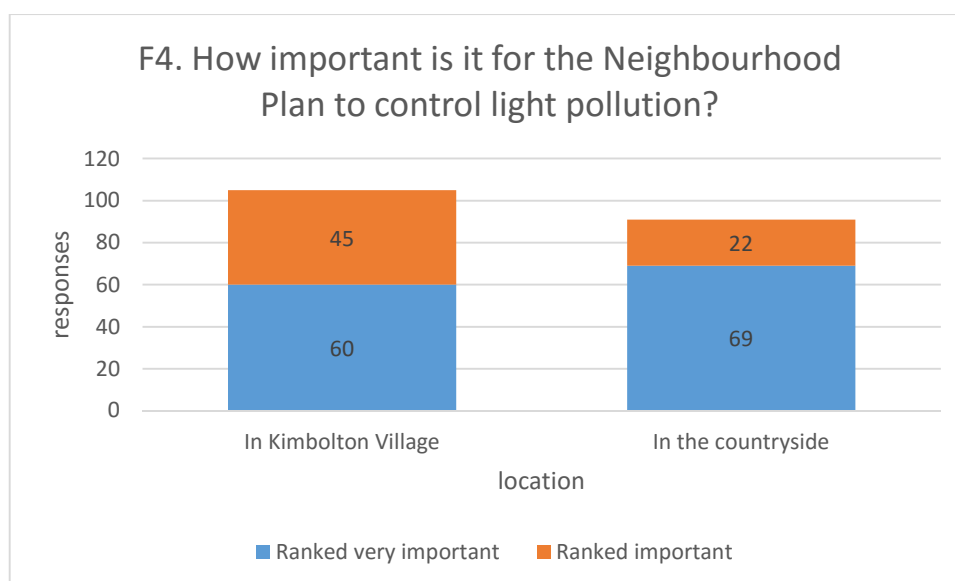
3.6.11 The majority of responses would like to see the Plan control light pollution in both Kimbolton village and the wider countryside.

F6. The design for new homes and other buildings

3.6.12 The Neighbourhood Plan can establish a set of policies and principles to guide the design of new buildings. The survey asked local people for their views on the best design for new buildings in the area over the lifetime of the Plan. 141 responses were provided and the results are summarised in Chart 16 below.

Chart 16 – the design of new homes and buildings
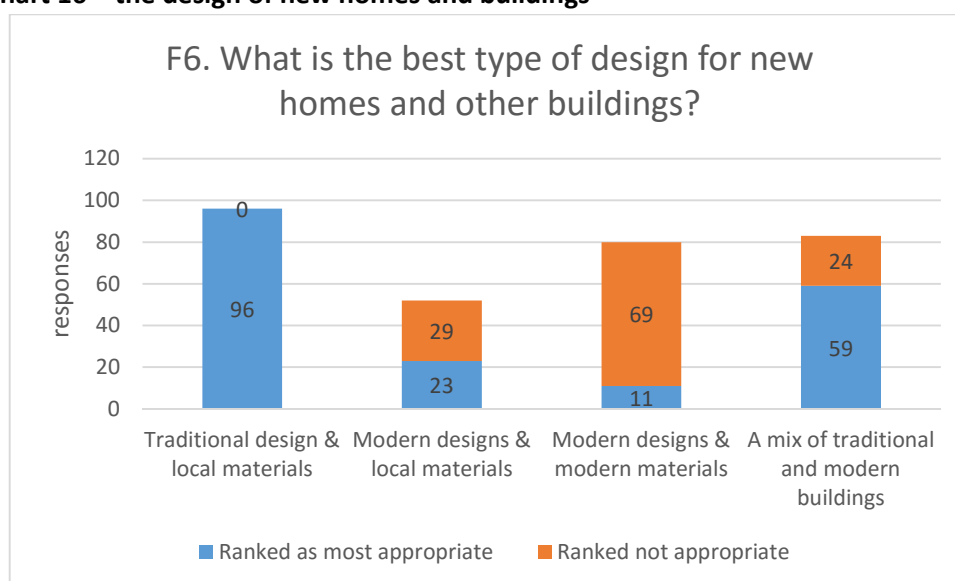
3.6.13   The majority of responses supported a traditional approach to new development with 96 responses considering this the most appropriate form of design. A significant minority also supported a mix of traditional and modern buildings (59 responses ranking this as most appropriate). There was far less support for either modern designs using local materials or modern designs using modern materials – the latter ranked as most appropriate by only 11 responses.

3.7   Part G – Utilities and services

3.7.1   The survey sought to understand the views of local people on the provision of key services and infrastructure and what the priorities should be for investment.

G1. Provision of key services

3.7.2   Question G1 sought to understand existing levels of provision of water supply, sewage treatment, broadband and mobile telephone coverage. There were 143 responses as summarised in Chart 17 below.

Chart 17 – Provision of key services
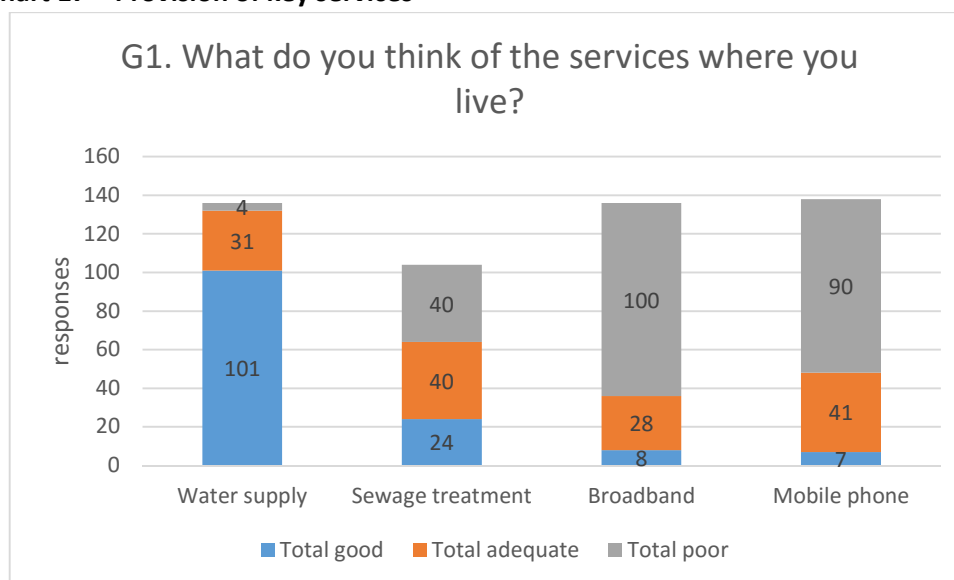
3.7.3   The responses show that satisfaction with provision of key services varies widely. While water supply is generally considered to be good, sewage treatment is much more mixed, reflecting the majority of households in the area being on private treatment systems. Telecommunications infrastructure is particularly poor with broadband regarded as good by only eight out of 136 responses, and mobile phone coverage regarded as good by only seven responses.

G2. Infrastructure priorities

3.7.4   The survey asked local people what they considered to be the priorities in terms of investment infrastructure. There were 141 responses to this question.

3.7.5   Better broadband (ranked as most important by 74 respondents), investment in roads (ranked as most important by 70 respondents), investment in pavements (ranked as most

important by 42 responses) and mobile phone coverage (ranked as most important by 44 respondents) were regarded as the most significant priorities as shown on Chart 18.

Chart 18– Investment priorities

G2 - If money was available to invest in infrastructure where should it be spent?

Roads	70 / 49
Gas supply	20 / 20
Pavements	42 / 58
Broadband	74 / 44
Water supply	35 / 36
Mobile phone	44 / 53
Sewerage and drainage	38 / 38

responses

■ Ranked very high priority   ■ Ranked Important
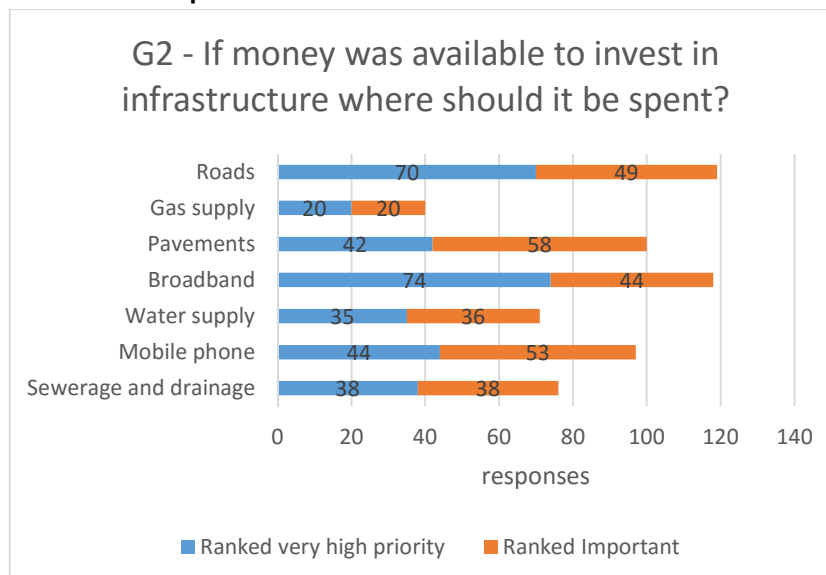
3.7.6   Gas supply, sewerage and drainage and water supply were identified as secondary priorities for investment.

G3. Would you support better mobile phone coverage if this included new masts in the area?

3.7.7   Chart 19 shows that Investment in mobile phone infrastructure was recognised as being important by local people, and question G3 sought to understand levels of support for new masts where this would help to improve coverage. 82 out of the 116 responses to this question supported new masts in the area, though a significant number qualified this response subject to appropriate siting and appearance.

Appendix 1 – Survey questionnaire

Kimbolton Neighbourhood Plan

Community Questionnaire

Kimbolton Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for our local area. You may have met us at the Launch Event in April or seen the information about the Plan in the Parish Magazine.

Neighbourhood Planning is a new way of helping local communities to influence the planning of the area in which they live and work. Once adopted, the Plan will have full legal status and will be used to determine all planning applications in the area. We are now at an important stage in the preparation of the Plan – the community survey. The responses to this survey will help us to shape the Plan by building on what you told us at the Launch Event. It will help us to better understand what is important to the community and how the Neighbourhood Plan can help us to achieve our hopes and aspirations for the future. The Report summarising the detailed comments made at the Launch Event can be accessed via our website http://kimboltonhamnish.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan/consultations/

The survey should take around 30 minutes to complete and your answers will remain anonymous. Details of what to do with this form when you have answered all the questions are set out on the final page.

If you would like any assistance with completing this questionnaire, or would like some additional copies for other members of your household, please contact Ian Culley on 07923 595 207, or contact us via the website.

A. About you

A1. What is your postcode?_____

A2. How many people including children normally live in your household?_____

A3. Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group

- o   0-18_____
- o   19-25_____
- o   26-49_____
- o   50-69_____
- o   70-84_____
- o   85+_____

A4. What age group do you belong to?

- o   0-18_____

- o 19-25 _____
- o 26-49 _____
- o 50-69 _____
- o 70-84 _____
- o 85+ _____

A5. How long in years have you lived in your current home?_____

B. Vision and General issues

B1. What do you like about living in the area?

B2. What do you dislike about living in the area?

B4. What changes / improvements would you like to see?

B5. What are the most important issues for you over the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan to 2031?

Tell us by putting a cross (x) for each issue in the table below from 1 (very important) to 5 (not at all important).

Issue	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not so important	Not at all important
	1	2	3	4	5
Unspoilt countryside					
Access to good education/schools					
Access to facilities for sport/leisure					
Access to local health and caring facilities					
Local identity / feeling part of a community					
Pleasant rural environment					
Local services and shops					
Lots of things going on					
Good public transport					
Right housing available					
Access to Local employment					
Have a say in local decisions					

C. Housing

The Herefordshire Core Strategy requires that the Neighbourhood Plan supports the building of a minimum of 30 new homes in the Parish between 2011 and 2031. This minimum target has now been met and exceeded through either homes that have already been built, and planning permissions which have been granted including the proposed 21 new homes on land to the rear of Chestnut Avenue.

C1. What are your views about this level of growth within the Parish over the Plan period? Please tick:

o   About right_____

o   This isn't enough and would support more _____

o   Would support more housing if this also helped to pay for new community
        facilities such as open space or traffic calming_____

o   Would support more than the minimum figure if needed for local people
        only_____

o   No more growth, already too much_____

C2. The Herefordshire Core Strategy requires that the majority of new housing is directed to the village of Kimbolton, but also allows new housing in the countryside mainly through either the conversion of rural buildings such as redundant barns, or where it is for agricultural and rural business employees who need to live on site.

Given that the minimum Core Strategy housing target has now been reached, we can choose what approach the Plan takes towards determining the scale of new development in the area in the future.

We have identified three broad options:

- **Option 1 - Continued Kimbolton focus**. A continued focus on Kimbolton village to include infill development and some housing development on larger sites of over 10 dwellings on the edge of the village.

Larger sites have the potential to deliver community benefits including affordable housing and public open space. This option also involves additional homes created through the conversion of rural buildings in the countryside.

- **Option 2 - Infill in Kimbolton only**. Limited infill development within Kimbolton village on sites of less than 5 dwellings with additional homes created through the conversion of rural buildings in the countryside.

- **Option 3 - Rural focus**. Very restricted approach to development in Kimbolton village with new development limited to small plots of 1-2 houses only. Also some additional dwellings through the conversion of rural buildings in the countryside outside the village

Please tell us which of these options do you think is the most appropriate by putting a cross (x) for each option in the table below from 1 (most appropriate) to 3 (not appropriate).

Option	Most appropriate	No strong views either way	Not appropriate
	1	2	3
Option 1 – Continued Kimbolton focus			
Option 2 – Small scale infill in Kimbolton			
Option 3 – Rural focus			

C3. At our Neighbourhood Plan open day in April a number of locations were identified by the community for new housing over and above those which already have planning permission. These sites are shown on the map below.
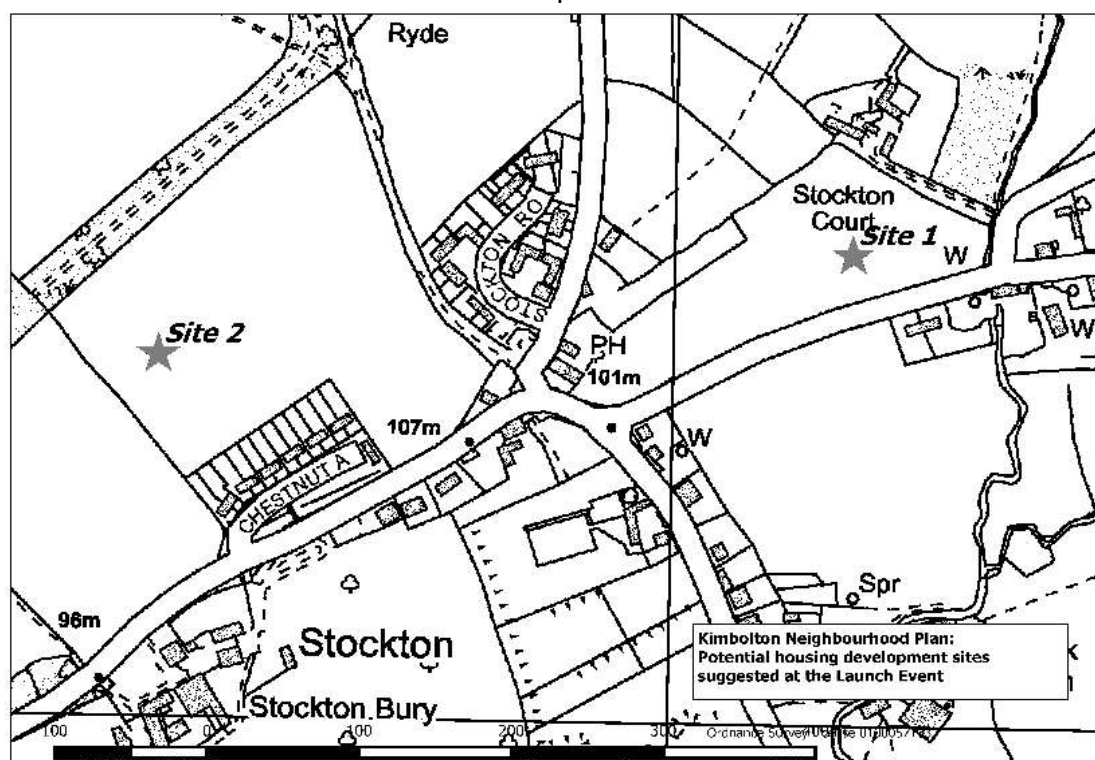
Can you tell us what is your view on their suitability for development? Please indicate suitable or not suitable and if not suitable please tell us why.

o   Site 1 - The field to the northern side of the A4112 between the Stockton Cross Pub and the Cogwell Brook. This site was also identified as a potential location for a new village green and/or play facilities.

    _____

    _____

    _____

o   Site 2 – An extension of the site which has recently secured planning permission to the north of Chestnut Avenue

    _____

    _____

    _____

C4. If new homes are to be built, what tenures of new housing should be encouraged?

Please tell us how important it is for the Plan to support specific tenures by putting a cross (x) for each tenure in the table below from 1 (Very high priority) to 5 (Not required at all).

Tenure	Very High priority	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not so important	Not required at all
	1	2	3	4	5
Social rented – Houses which are owned and managed by the Housing Association					
Private rented – Privately owned houses rented directly from the landowner					
Shared ownership – Houses that are provided through Housing Associations but tenants can buy a share of the house and rent the remaining share					
'Starter Homes' for young first time buyers					
Owner occupied – The residents both fully own the house and live there.					

C5. What types of homes are needed across the Parish?

Please tell us how important it is for the Plan to support specific types of housing by putting a cross (x) for each house type in the table below from 1 (Very high priority) to 5 (not required at all).

House type	Very High priority	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not so important	Not required at all
	1	2	3	4	5
Large detached private houses					
Private semi-detached houses (2 or 3 bedrooms)					
Affordable homes including Starter Homes for first time buyers					
Houses with workshops attached for cottage industries					
Bungalows					
Eco-homes					
Sheltered accommodation for elderly people					
Self-build homes					
Housing exclusively for local people					

C6. What do you think are the main challenges in the building of new homes in the Parish?

D. Community facilities

D1. At our Neighbourhood Plan open day a number of new community assets were suggested by local people.

Please tell us which of these are most needed by putting a cross (x) for each facility in the table below from 1 (Very high priority) to 5 (not required at all).

Asset / facility	Very High priority	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not so important	Not required at all
	1	2	3	4	5
A new village green					
A new village play area					
A new village sports field					
Keep the village pub					
Keep the village school					
A wider range of facilities at Kimbolton Church					

D2. Where do you think the following new facilities should be located?

Village greens

Village play area

Village sports field

Other

D3. How often do you use the Parish hall currently? Please put a tick next to the most appropriate. By 'use' we mean attend meetings, events, host an event such as a birthday party:

o   Once a week_____
o   Once a month_____
o   Once every six months_____
o   Once a year_____
o   Less frequently_____
o   Never (what would encourage you to use it)

_____

D4. How often do you visit the Stockton Cross Pub? Please put a tick next to the most appropriate:

o   Once a week_____
o   At least once per month but not every week_____
o   Less often_____
o   Never (what would encourage you to use it?)

_____

D5. How often do you use the village shop at the Stockton Cross Pub? Please put a tick next to the most appropriate.

o   Once a week_____
o   At least once per month but not every week_____
o   Less often_____
o   Never (what would encourage you to use it?)

_____

D6. Are there any other community facilities that you think should be provided for these age groups?

o   Under 12s_____
o   Under 21s_____
o   Over 60s_____

E. Traffic and transport

E1. Does the speed of traffic through Kimbolton concern
you?

E2. If so, what would you do to address this?

E3. Would you support the use of additional road marking and / or road surface (eg red road or high grip surface)? If so where?

E4. Do you believe pedestrian crossings would benefit or merely spoil the character of the village? If you feel they would be of benefit, where should they be located?

E5. Would you support a proposal that involved altering the physical features of part or parts of the village in order to increase visibility from a driver's perspective? If so where?

E6. Do you believe that permanent speed indicator devices have a place in Kimbolton?

E7. If speed indicator devices are introduced to slow traffic down as it travels through Kimbolton then this may not be able to be funded by Herefordshire Council. Therefore would you be prepared to pay more Council Tax for the provision as soon as possible of a permanent speed indicator device?

E8. At the launch event a number of locations were identified where either the existing footpath should be improved, or new footpaths created.

Please tell us which of these are most needed by putting a cross (x) for each location in the table below from 1 (Very high priority) to 5 (not required at all).

Location	Very high priority	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not so important	Not required at all
	1	2	3	4	5
Along the A4112 between Chestnut Avenue and A49					
At the cross roads near the Stockton Cross Pub					
Along the A4112 between the school and the main part of the village					

Are there any other locations / improvements that are needed?

F. Environment and landscape

F1. What are the most important features that make up the character of our area?

Tell us by putting a cross (x) for each issue in the table below from 1 (very important) to 5 (not at all important).

Asset / facility	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not so important	Not at all important
	1	2	3	4	5
The network of fields					
Trees and hedgerows					
Views					
Churches and churchyards					
Farmsteads					
Historic / traditional buildings					
Varied building styles throughout the area					

F2. Are there any important views that you think should be protected? (Please give location and / or map grid reference if possible.)

F3. What are the main threats to the character of the area?

F4. What should be done to protect and improve wildlife habitats?

F5. Artificial lighting is an essential part of modern living but if ill-directed and/or poorly set up it can cause light pollution.

Please indicate the level of importance you think the Neighbourhood Plan should give to controlling light pollution in both Kimbolton village and the surrounding countryside by putting a cross (x) for each issue in the table below from 1 (very important) to 5 (not at all important).

Location	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not so important	Not at all important
	1	2	3	4	5
Within Kimbolton village					
In the countryside					

F6. What is the best type of design for new homes and other buildings?

Please tell us which of these options do you think is the most appropriate by putting a cross (x) for each option in the table below from 1 (most appropriate) to 3 (not appropriate)

Option	Most appropriate	No strong views either way	Not appropriate
	1	2	3
Traditional design buildings using local materials			
Modern designs using local materials			
Modern designs using modern materials			
A mix of traditional and modern buildings			

G Utilities and services

G1. Please tell us what you think about the following services where you live.

Please put a tick in the table below to say whether it is good, adequate or poor:

Service / utility	Good 1	Adequate 2	Poor 3
Water supply			
Sewage treatment			
Broadband			
Mobile phone			

G2. If money was available to invest in infrastructure, where should this be spent?

Indicate as many as you prefer grading them from 1 (highest priority) to 5 (not required at all):

Asset / facility	Very High priority 1	Important 2	Neither important or unimportant 3	Not so important 4	Not required at all 5
Sewerage and drainage					
Mobile phone					
Water supply					
Broadband					
Pavements					
Gas supply					
Roads					

G3. Would you support better mobile phone coverage if this included new masts in the area?

Thank you for your time in completing this survey. Please put the survey in the envelope provided and the volunteer who delivered the survey will arrange to collect it in a week's time.