**Community Engagement – The results**

In order to progress the Neighbourhood Plan we need your comments/acknowledgment of the importance of these areas in order to create the Vision and Objectives of the ‘Neighbourhood Plan’ for the Parish of North Newnton.

Natural beauty and open spaces and views

Consistent with the responses to the Parish Council Questionnaire, the comments from the community events indicated that by far the most important aspect of living in North Newnton is the natural beauty across the three villages, the open views, open countryside and footpaths (58%) and peaceful rural environment (47%). The pubs, church, cemetery and village hall (15.5%) and community spirit are also appreciated (42%).

The responses to Parish Council Questionnaire indicated that 97% of total responses were strongly or preferably in favour of preserving our open views and more than 90% felt that retention of green areas, trees and hedges was important. 22% of the people attending the community events would like better upkeep of verges and hedges and the same percentage would like additional places for children to play. 34% of the Parish Council Questionnaire responses were “don’t know” in answer to a question about creating or expanding open public spaces.

Village Appearance

Maintaining and retaining the character and appearance of existing buildings was important to 92% of the total responses to the Parish Council Questionnaire.

Development

24% of the people attending the community events favoured balanced development; 11% favour commercial units on farm estates and 27% favour more affordable housing to attract young families. Nobody wrote a comment opposing building or development in the future but 76% chose not to signify that they favoured balanced development.

The Parish Council Questionnaire asked several questions about housing density, in-fill development, compatible development of undeveloped land. The responses were as follows: maintaining the current level of housing density was important or very important to 89% of the total respondents with those in Hilcott and Bottlesford leaning more towards very important and North Newnton to important. In-fill housing was acceptable to 56% but unacceptable to 38%, more so in Hilcott and Bottlesford than in North Newnton. A question about compatible development of undeveloped land received a mixed response with 16% of North Newnton respondents finding it unacceptable, which rose to 65% in Bottlesford and 82% in Hilcott. 61% of the responses to the Parish Council Questionnaire were in favour of affordable housing provision.

Traffic

What people in the Parish most dislike is the traffic. 69% of the community event respondents dislike the traffic speed in all 3 villages and 44% want speed limits in the future. 18% dislike HGVs on our small roads and the same percentage are very unhappy with the road repairs. 11% commented on a lack of parking for visitors. These responses are consistent with those to the Parish Council Questionnaire in which 70% found the speed control not effective. 62% of the Parish Council Questionnaire respondents said they would support traffic restrictions. In North Newnton 75% found the provision of pavements not acceptable.

Community and services.

The Parish’s good community spirit was appreciated by 42% of those attending he community events. 18% would like it to be better in the future. Despite the near-by shops at the Woodborough Garden Centre and in Upavon 15.5% would like a village shop in the Parish. Community events were thought important or very important by 81% of the Parish Council Questionnaire respondents, with the majority, 64%, stating that they were important. However 87% of the Questionnaire respondents use the village hall in Hilcott occasionally or not at all. Mobile coverage was insufficient for 7% of the community event respondents and 18% wanted it to be better; 20% indicated that slow broadband was among the things they didn’t like. 46% of those responding to the Parish Council Questionnaire found the broadband “good enough for what I need” but 33% found it not fast enough and 21% found it poor. 18% of the community event respondents want better public transport.

In conclusion, the above information can be summarised into the following priorities:

* We care very much about our natural environment and open views.
* North Newnton is more open to new building than the other villages, however in general there is some support for balanced development.
* We are very disturbed by the traffic, in terms of speed and pedestrian safety.
* We feel we have got a good community spirit and would like it be even better.