

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Plan

Community Questionnaire

Report and Analysis

August 2017

Prepared by PPS Planning Manchester

On behalf of Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum

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1. Introduction

This report provides an independent analysis of the responses received to a Questionnaire prepared by the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum. The purpose of the Questionnaire was to establish views from local residents, businesses, landowners and organisations on how the Neighbourhood area should change and be conserved over the next 15-20 years. The analysis will provide evidence about local issues, local needs and the aspirations of the community so that the Forum can review its objectives for the Plan, start to explore what further information or evidence is needed and what planning policies it wants to pursue through the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Plan. Local consultation and engagement is a statutory part of the plan preparation process.

The introductory sections provide some information about the Plan (Section 2) and the preparation process (Section 3). Section 4 summarises how the Questionnaire was publicised and made available and Section 5 explains the structure of the questionnaire and the nature of the questions. Section 6 summarises the level of response to the questionnaire and Section 7 provides a detailed analysis of the results, question by question. The Appendix includes a table which sets out (against each Question) the main issues for the Plan arising from the analysis, and the information or evidence needed to address those issues and to formulate plan policies.

2. About the Plan

The Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan') is produced by the Neighbourhood Forum under the Localism Act 2011 and the associated Regulations. The Neighbourhood Plan is a community led framework to guide the future use and development of land including changes of use and the management of land and buildings. It comprises written policies and a proposals map. The Plan can:

- set planning policies to determine decisions on planning applications (these include policies which set out requirements for certain types of development and policies which allocate a site for a particular use or uses); and
- grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order.

The ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area and it must conform to national planning policies set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. In particular, the Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Council's Local Plan 'Core Strategy' which was adopted in October 2016. The Neighbourhood Plan can add further 'local' detail and show how the strategic policies and the development management policies of the Rochdale Core Strategy should be applied to meet Rooley Moor's needs and aspirations. It is for the community decide what issues the Neighbourhood Plan should deal with. It need not deal with every topic or issue; it can just deal with those matters that are important to the local community and which relate to land use and can be implemented within the plan period.

Once prepared, the Plan must be publicised to allow consultation over a 6 week period. The Forum must then review the Plan before submitting it to the local planning authority (i.e. Rochdale Council) who must publicise it for a further 6 weeks before an independent check is carried out by an 'independent examiner' appointed by government. If certain 'basic conditions' are met, the Plan can go to a local 'Referendum' for approval. If 50% or more support the Plan it can be declared 'made' and becomes part of the statutory Local Plan and a basis for the determination of all planning applications and appeals. The plan preparation involves a lot of work and statutory procedures and therefore it is not likely to be made until mid 2018.

3. The Plan Process

For more details about the Plan, its timetable and current progress, check the web site:

www.rmnf.org.uk

The diagram below shows the key stages in the preparation of the Plan and the arrow indicates the current stage.



4. Publicity and Consultation on the Questionnaire

Legislation requires the Forum to carry out a formal public consultation on the Plan for a minimum period of 6 weeks before submitting it to Government for independent examination and referendum. However, the Forum has chosen to go beyond the minimum requirements for community consultation required by law by carrying out detailed publicity and consultation in the early stages. The Forum considered this essential to:

- notify the community and local businesses that a plan is being prepared;
- explain how the community and businesses can get involved and engage in the process;
- identify what the local community thinks before the plan is prepared;
- define the aims of the Plan and the key issues which the Plan would address; and
- gather evidence about other opinions and features of life in the Neighbourhood Area.

Initial Publicity

Following the Neighbourhood Area Designation and the establishment of the Forum, initial publicity was carried out locally using the Forum website, leaflets, press publicity, and events in the local area, including tv coverage. As part of the initial publicity, those who live, work or visit the area were invited to complete a form stating what they liked and didn't like about the area and what improvements they would like to make or what opportunities should be grasped in planning the future of the area. The results of this initial consultation were used to devise this more detailed Questionnaire aimed at exploring local views in more detail. The initial publicity carried out also provided residents and interested parties with information about the role of the Neighbourhood Plan and the process it must follow.

Consultation and the Community Questionnaire

The Forum was keen to gather public opinion on key topics in order to review key issues and priorities, identify further information needs and to guide policy preparation. A detailed Questionnaire was considered the best way to proceed.

The questionnaire was the subject of local press publicity before being made available in both paper form and on the Forum's website in December 2014.

- The consultation was carried out between 29th May and 30th June 2017.
- Rochdale Online (10 May 2017) featured publicity article and link to the Questionnaire.
- The Questionnaire was distributed using:
 - An online questionnaire using Survey Monkey
 - A paper copy questionnaires posted to area residents and forum members.
- The questionnaire (which had 19 questions and an optional section to gather demographic information) was posted to 99 Addresses in Area and 15 Forum members who live outside the area.

- The questionnaire was also shared with 60 statutory consultees and stakeholder organisations with an interest in the area for which a separate record of response is available.
- In total 228 questionnaires were delivered to 99 addresses in the area. Each received two questionnaires each as did 15 forum members who live outside the area.

5. The Questionnaire Questions

The policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Development Plan need to have regard to the views of the local community in terms of:

Through the Questionnaire, the Forum was keen to explore the views of those who live in the area, work in the area, and those who visit or use the area for recreation and enjoyment. In particular the Questionnaire sought to establish:

- What matters most to people?
- What changes people want to see?
- What assets and features people want to see protected from development and change?
- How the area should be managed in the future?

As the Plan policies should relate to the use and development of land, the Questionnaire focuses on:

- **Development** – how much and what type of housing, employment uses, shops, leisure facilities and other development should be promoted and where and what type of development should be discouraged; and
- **Infrastructure** – how to protect and enhance green open spaces, play facilities, roads and footpaths, local services e.g. surgeries, schools, etc.

The Questionnaire was devised with the help of the comments already gathered during the initial publicity period. The questionnaire was made available in a way that secured the best possible response and which was effective and economical.

Whilst the questionnaire was anonymous, respondents had the option to provide personal details so that the Forum could better appreciate the demographic and particular interest of the respondents and to allow the Forum to contact respondents to discuss issues and provide updates through the process. However, those details are confidential (i.e. they are not disclosed to the public).

The responses have been analysed and summarised as a total response but also split between those from those not living in the area and those outside the area. It was considered important to understand the views of those who live and work in the area and those who live adjoining or who use the area for recreation and to address any potential conflicts.

6. Responses to the Questions

The Questionnaire included 19 questions and asked respondents to rank up to 13 alternative answers/options for each question and to illustrate their responses with written comments if they wished. This was ambitious. However it was considered important to provide a full range of issues and possible responses. The Forum recognised that not every respondent would fully complete the questionnaire, although a high percentage answered all questions. In summary:

- 39 paper questionnaires were returned (17%)
- 36 questionnaires were partially completed on Survey Monkey 23 of which fully completed. (Note, there might be some duplication with the paper questionnaire).
- In total, 62 questionnaires completed, of which 40 were from those in the area and 22 outside the area. Therefore 40 out of a population of approximately 200 (average 2 people per household) achieved a 20% return.

7. The Analysis

The Analysis is based on data supplied by the Forum, collated from the returned questionnaire responses and the survey monkey responses. The Analysis deals with each question in turn and sets out the responses in summary, quoting key statistics including a bar chart to provide a pictorial representation of the way respondents answered.

The Questions are grouped into topic sections and are numbered within each section. Each question sets out a list of possible answers or alternative responses which respondents can choose. These answers are not mutually exclusive as respondents may agree with a number of possible answers or options. Against each of the possible answers or alternative options, respondents can rank these in terms of importance, suitability, amount, preference etc., depending on the nature of the question. The percentages against each possible response/ranking are based on the number of responses to the possible answer not the question as a whole.

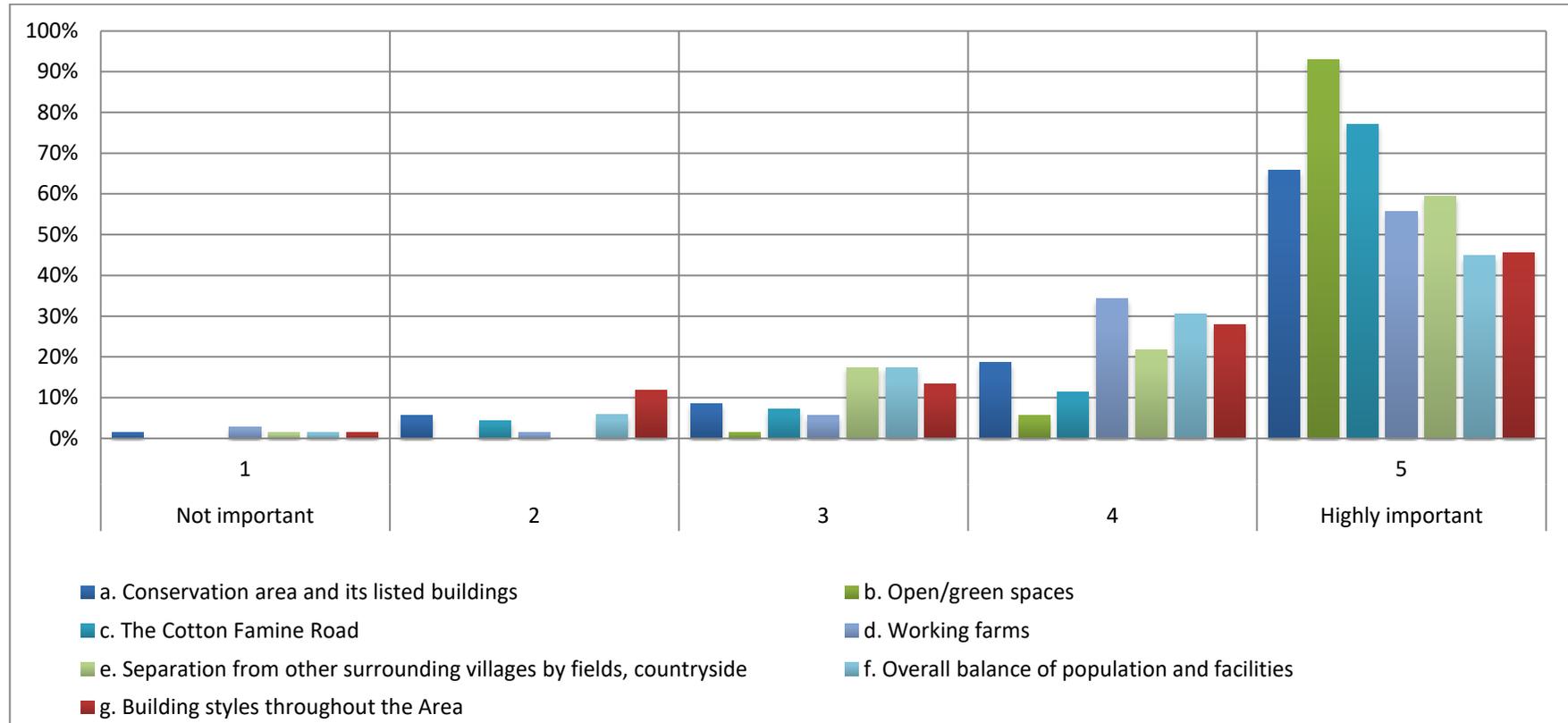
At the end of the analysis on each question, there is a paragraph summarising the 'Responses' and following that a 'Commentary' (in italics) which provides an independent view of the significance of the responses in terms of progressing the Neighbourhood Plan. It also identifies where further information or evidence is needed – either to validate the responses or to help identify possible policy approaches which the Plan should explore.

The next stage is to decide which matters should and can be pursued through the Plan. It should be borne in mind that some matters can adequately be addressed through borough-wide policies and some can be addressed outside of the Plan process. The Plan must deal only with land-use related matters and include only proposals that can be justified by evidence and implemented within the Plan period. It is vitally important that there is real evidence to justify the Plan's policies as well as evidence of public opinion to support a particular policy approach. Therefore more work on expanding the evidence base in certain areas must now be a priority.

8. Analysis of the Responses

Section 1 – Area Statement

1. Which of the following describe the essential characteristics of the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Area?



Responses

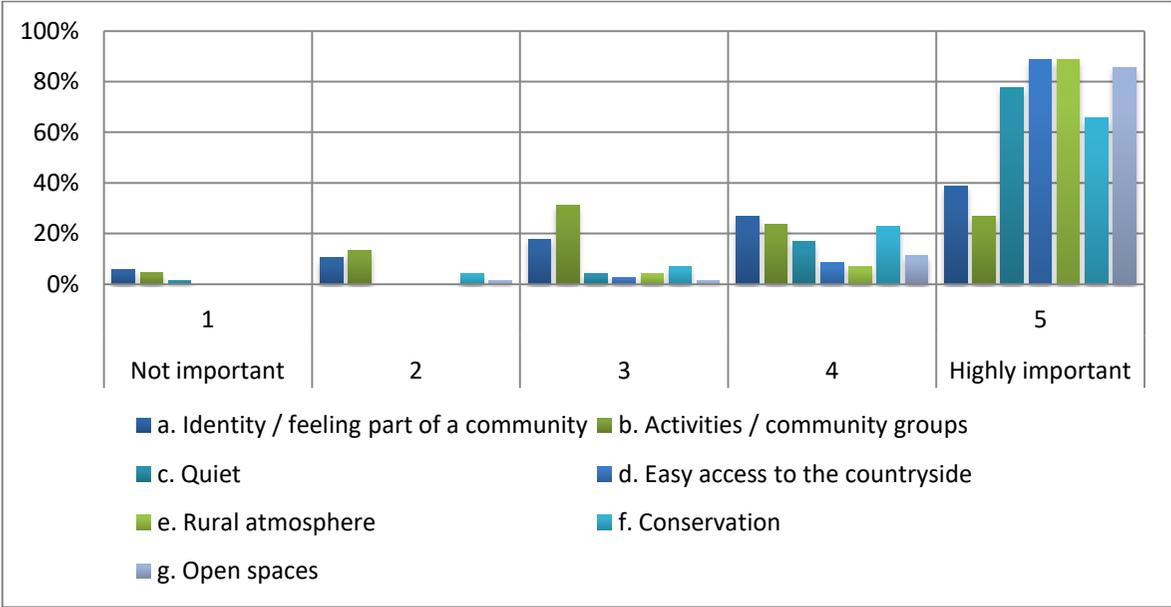
Respondents both in the area and outside the area felt that the most essential characteristic was its open spaces and greenery with 93% saying this was the most important characteristic. Both those living inside and outside the area thought that the area's special architectural and historic interest (i.e. the

conservation area and listed buildings) was a key characteristic of the area. The Cotton Famine Road was voted by 77% as the most important feature with 66% stating that conservation areas and listed buildings were most important. About half of all respondents thought 'working farms' (which help to maintain the local economy and local landscape character) were highly important. Of moderate importance were building styles and the overall balance of population and facilities, although understandably, those in the area felt these were more important than those outside the area. Comments made in support of the responses referred to some negative characteristics including illegal farm buildings/uses and tipping in the area.

Commentary

The results show that there is a significant level of agreement that most characteristics are important or highly important. The Plan needs to consider policies to protect unspoilt character and conservation assets through design requirements and enhancements. It should also consider how best to encourage farming and farm diversity (essential to maintain landscape character) whilst ensuring new buildings and uses respect that character and to do conflict with green belt objectives. There may be specific accessible green open spaces which are valued by residents and visitors for their recreational, amenity or other value. These could be identified for protection and potential enhancement in the Plan.

2. What do you enjoy/love about living in the Rooley Moor Area?



Responses

89% of respondents thought easy access to the wider countryside was the key attraction of living in and appreciating the area. A similar high percentage of the respondents valued the area’s quiet atmosphere, local conservation assets and quality open spaces.

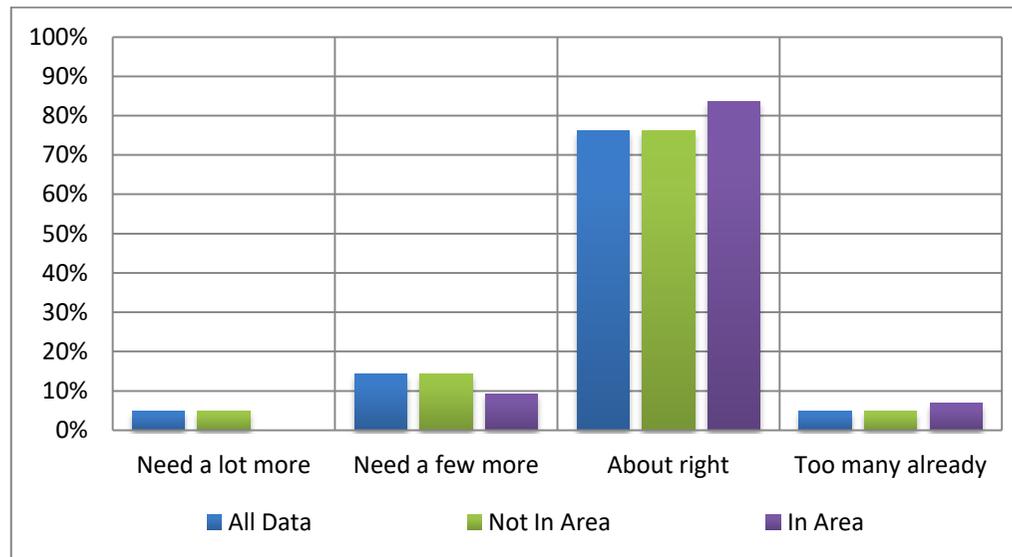
Predictably, lower percentages of those living outside the area thought the feeling of community and local activities/groups were less important than those living in the area.

Commentary

It is clear that again that those who live in the area and those who visit it are in general agreement about its qualities and characteristics.

Section 2 – Housing

1. What do you think about the amount of housing currently available in the Rooley Moor Area?



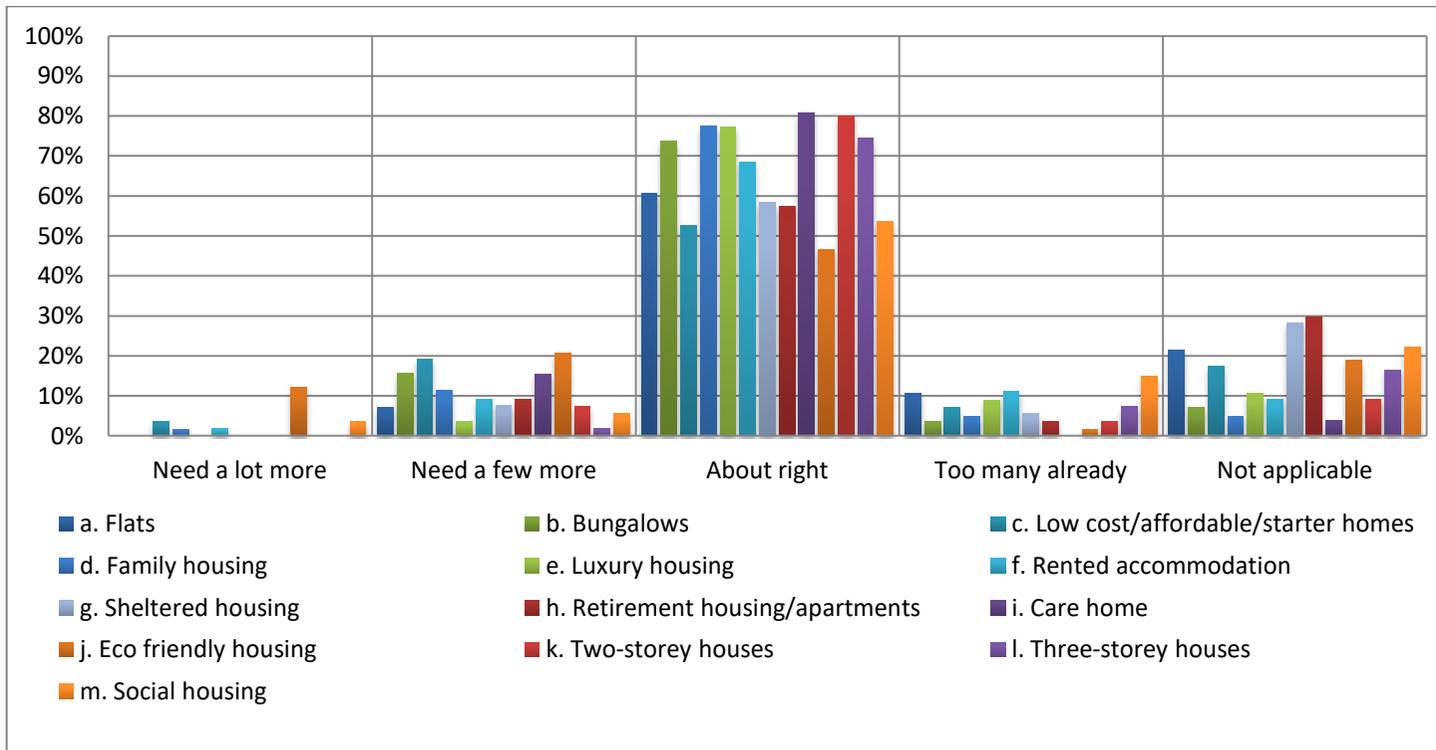
Responses

The majority (81% of respondents) felt the overall level of housing was about right with both those in the area and those outside showing a similar majority. 11% thought there a few more were needed and only 1 person from outside the area thought a lot more were needed. Only 6.25% thought there were too many houses in the area already. A slightly higher proportion of those outside the area thought more housing was required than those living in the area. Conversely, slightly more respondents within the area thought there were too many already.

Commentary

It can be concluded from the responses and the comments received that there are limited opportunities for new housing without harming the open character of the area and that only a very limited level of housing growth would be appropriate with a possible focus on restoring and renovating existing buildings to create new units. The answers to the following questions give more indication of what type of housing may benefit the area, how many and in what parts of the area.

2. What do you think about the current composition of housing in the Rooley Moor Area?



Responses

In terms of whether houses of specific types were in short supply, there were mixed views and no strong preference. However, 33% of respondents thought the greatest need in terms of housing type, was care home accommodation (presumably supported living or nursing/care home). Twice as many of those living outside the area thought there was such a need. More sheltered and retirement housing was also favoured by those outside the area. 19.5% of respondents thought more bungalows were needed and 10% thought there should be more 'affordable' or 'low cost' housing or rented housing stock. 23% thought low cost affordable homes would be appropriate. Only a small percentage (4%) wished to see more luxury housing. More social housing was supported by a minority (9%).

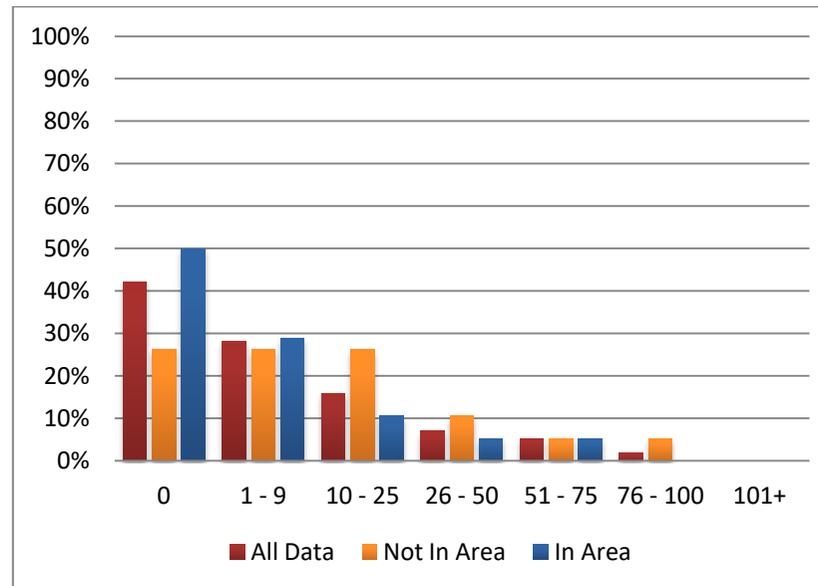
The comments received in support of the responses indicate a general view that the area has little capacity for new housing and that any significant level of new housing would detract from the area. (See Question 1 below).

Commentary

From the results it is difficult to draw clear conclusions other than the view that a few different types of housing were considered appropriate but only in small numbers and in a form that is appropriate to the character of the area. Also the comments made in support of the answer choices do not indicate why there is support or a lack of support for different housing types. The collective support for care home accommodation, sheltered housing and retirement housing may be an indication that either there is an actual or perceived lack of accommodation in this part of the Borough, and/or that the area lends itself to this type of accommodation. The above perceived need should be tested against the Council's own Housing Need Study and the ability of the area to accommodate certain types of housing having regard to accessibility, availability of suitable sites and the impact of such housing on the special historic and landscape character of the area.

Section Three – Building Development

1. In your opinion how many new homes should be built in the Area in the next 15 years?



Responses

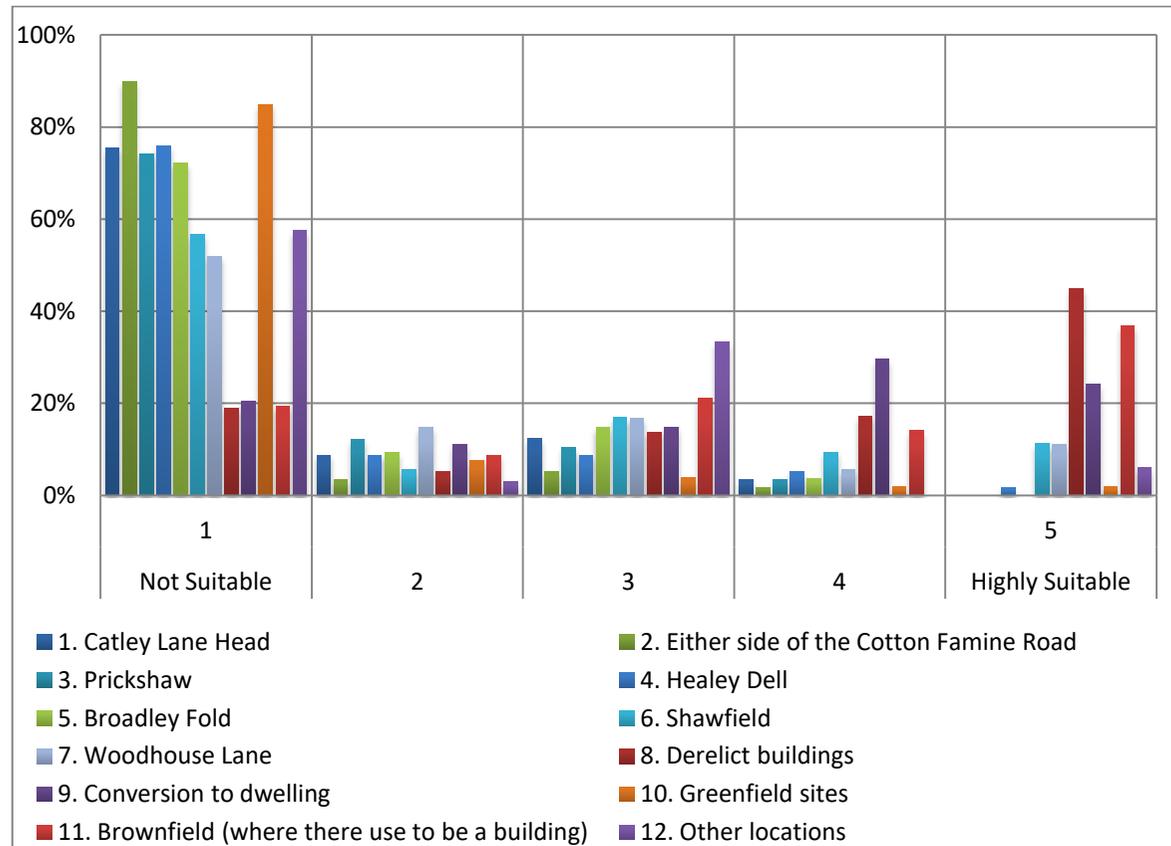
42% of respondents considered that no new homes should be built in the area in the next 15 years. This comprised 53.7% of those in the area and 23% of those outside the area. Nearly 47% overall suggested between 1 and 25 new houses (39% of those in the area and 59% of those outside the area). 28% thought between 1 and 9 houses could be built and 15% thought between 10 and 25 could be built. 14% suggested from 26 -100 might be appropriate. The responses to this question suggests a slightly greater willingness to see more housing than is suggested in the response to question 1 which revealed that 81% thought the current level of housing was about right. The comments did not seek to justify the answers but made general observations about the limited capacity of the area due to the need to protect open character and the green belt.

Commentary

It is not clear from the comments why respondents chose the different number ranges but the results show that overall the level of new housing should be small-scale so as not to detract from the openness and character of the area. The Council's own housing policies promote housing growth in the south of the borough and therefore the plan area is not one where new housing should be focussed. Also, national and local green belt policies would not support new housing development in the green belt. Exceptions could however include:

- *the replacement of an existing dwelling provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces,*
- *limited infilling in a village or limited affordable housing for local community needs (where this is identified in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan),*
- *or the limited infilling or partial redevelopment of previously developed sites (brownfield land), whether redundant or in continuing use (excluding temporary buildings), which would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development. (Source: National Planning Policy Framework).*

2. In your opinion where would you like to see any development in our Area?



Responses

The responses show that the following areas were not generally considered suitable for development:

- Catley Lane Head,

- Cotton Famine Road,
- Prickshaw,
- Healey Dell and
- Broadley Fold.

Those areas that were considered highly suitable for development were:

- Shawfield (to the southern end of the Area close to the urban boundary) 11.3% and
- Woodhouse Lane (to the west of the area) 11.4%

The responses show that if a significant housing development was to be encouraged, then the only appropriate locations were on the urban periphery of the area or adjoining existing development. 51% thought that previously developed land (i.e. land where there is evidence of previous development) could be considered for new housebuilding, but at least 91% thought that greenfield sites should not be used.

62% of respondents thought derelict buildings would be suitable or highly suitable to deliver new housing units. Some respondents commented that derelict buildings detract from the area and the landscape but that not all would be suitable for restoration to housing. Also, some 19.6% thought that derelict buildings should not be used (possibly because they are part of the character of the area and would not be suitable or appropriate).

Over half (54%) thought that existing building conversions could deliver new units. With regard to both the restoration and conversions, the comments indicate that there should be strict design criteria to ensure historical and architectural character is maintained.

The potential to convert existing buildings to create new dwelling units was recognised but the fairly low percentage response may indicate that some considered that opportunities/scope are limited.

Commentary

The area falls within the green belt where there is a presumption (in terms of national and local planning policy) against built development and where other policies of the Council's Core Strategy would generally oppose new housing development. (see commentary above). The locations in the question are all in the green belt but it is nevertheless useful to get a view on which areas if any might be suitable in the event of a pressing housing need now or in the future.

This means that the potential for new housing should be focussed on exploring the potential of brownfield sites and existing buildings in the area.

The willingness of some respondents for the plan to consider potential for housing in areas adjoining the urban boundary indicate a preference to avoid housing in more open rural areas (where housing would harm the special character of those other areas and small settlements). There is a significant level of support for using vacant brownfield sites for new housebuilding where appropriate but it is clear from the comments that such development should be in keeping with the setting and should seek to improve the environment and retain features of interest. Similarly the comments show that whilst the sensitive restoration of derelict buildings may have potential to create new housing units, some would lend themselves more to other uses to retain historic character and associations and to benefit the community. More information is needed through conservation area and landscape appraisals and other studies to identify suitable brownfield sites and potential underused or derelict buildings so that key buildings of character can be maintained in beneficial use.

3. Are there any places in our Area you think are important and should be protected? Which areas and why ?

Responses

Important places considered so important they should be protected by Plan policies include those areas important for their historic and architectural value, areas of landscape or ecological value, and recreational assets. Also, the need to protect the openness of the countryside and the farming economy was reiterated.

Support for the protection of the built heritage included:

- The Cotton Famine Road, Prickshaw and Broadley Fold Conservation Area, Catley Lane Head, Fern Hill, listed buildings and historic features such as historic dry stone walls, setted roads etc.

Support for the natural heritage included:

- Healey Dell Nature Reserve, ponds and brooks.

Support for places of recreational interest included:

- Fishing Lake, Pennine Bridleway and connected recreational rights of way (i.e. footpaths and bridleways) linking with Healey Dell, Greenbooth etc. and the wider countryside. Some concerns were expressed about inappropriate recreational pursuits e.g. motorbikes on Hunger Hill).

Commentary

Built heritage assets i.e. listed buildings and conservation areas already have protection through the Development Plan but the Neighbourhood Plan has the option to include a higher level of detail in its policies where specific controls are needed on new development and where specific enhancements and uses are sought. Conservation Area Appraisals should be used to guide such policies. Respondents were keen to see the protection of individual built features i.e., stone walls, kerbs, cobbles and stone setts as there was concern that these features could be lost or could deteriorate further through poor maintenance. The condition of unadopted roads and lanes in general was a concern as these were considered essential for the area to function as a farming community and a destination for visitors and sustainable tourism. The likelihood that new built development will be limited means that there will be limited opportunities to secure developer contributions to road infrastructure but this is an area that could be pursued through the plan.

With regard to green infrastructure, Policies in the Core Strategy provide general protection to water bodies, woodland, upland farmland, and specific Designated Sites of Ecological Importance (which includes statutory and local sites). The Plan could expand on how such features should be protected and enhanced through development proposals and land management.

The area's recreational potential should be promoted through the plan and this is explored in Section 4. Key areas for different types of recreational activities should be identified in the Plan and consideration should be given to how potential conflicts between users can be avoided.

Some important attractions lie just outside the area (e.g. Healey Dell, Geenbooth) and it is important to promote strategic recreational links from within the area to add value to the overall recreational / visitor experience. The Plan also needs to consider potential conflicts between different recreational activities and between those activities and farming and heritage interests.

Key priorities for the protection and enhancement of places and features should be identified in the plan so that the Forum can seek to work with landowners, farmers, residents, businesses and funding bodies to influence investment decisions on buildings, land and infrastructure.

4. Are there any redundant structures in our Area that you would like to see removed or improved?

Responses

Several respondents suggested that redundant abandoned and derelict agricultural buildings and workshops should be re-used and restored if possible (e.g. barns and derelict barns, sheds and brick structures at Catley Lane Head) and former industrial buildings at Healey Dell (Healey Hall Mills). Others included derelict wooden structures at Prickshaw, and barns in Shawfield and throughout the area. It was suggested that redundant structures at Catley Lane Head should be converted to exhibition / information display centre.

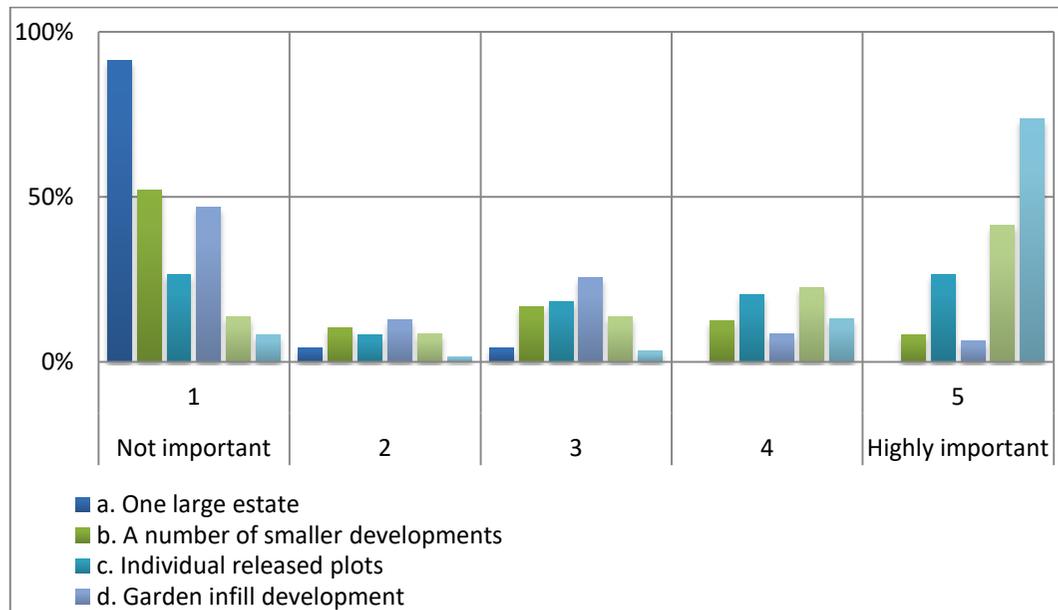
There was also some support for the removal of electricity pylons and cables and their re-routing underground.

Commentary

Most redundant buildings have been identified through the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Area Conservation Appraisal and Conservation Area Appraisals. In most cases it would be desirable to retain those structures by restoration/conversion to uses that will help to maintain the integrity of the structure, retain local interest and provide a beneficial use. However, more work needs to be done to identify potential uses and sources of funding. The Plan preparation process could seek to identify specific proposals and/or could include criteria based policies which identify an appropriate range of uses within discreet areas along with detailed design criteria. The possibility to create accommodation for a visitor centre through the re-use of a vacant or derelict building should be explored but unless funding can be secured, it may be necessary to consider options to provide a facility through a related commercial venture (e.g. farm shop, cafe, cycle hire).

The removal of existing (non-redundant) pylons/cables and re-routing underground, however desirable, will be difficult to achieve, but may be worthy of investigation, especially if windpower developments expand in the area.

5. If additional housing were to be built, what would you prefer?



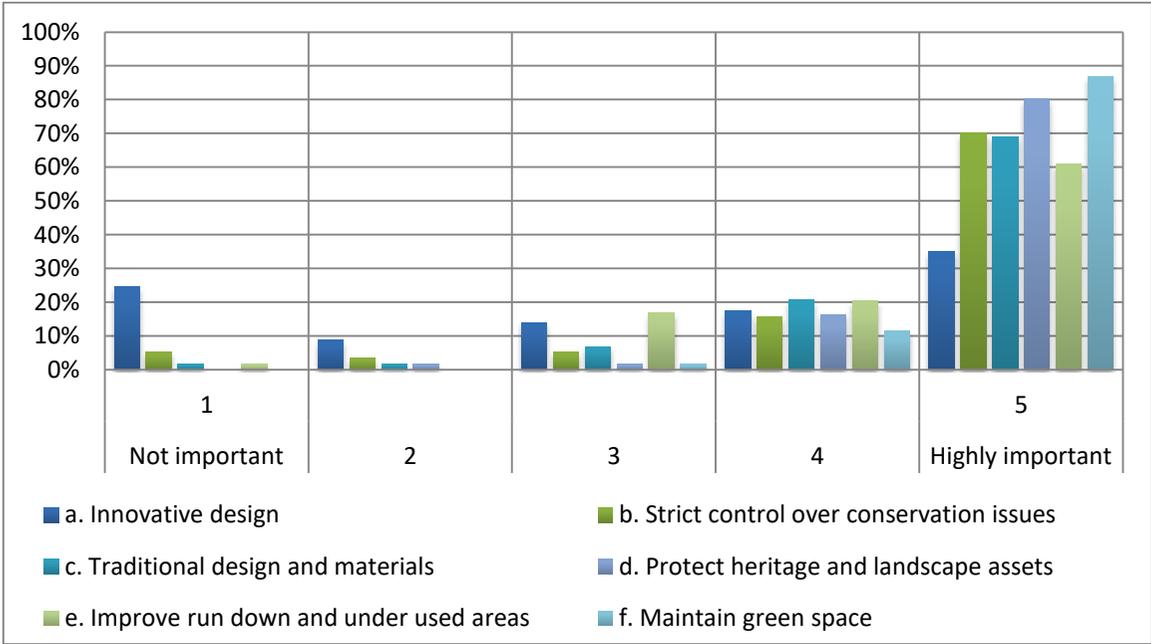
Responses

There was unanimous opposition to the option to pursue housing needs through one large development in the area. The clear preference was for new housing to be provided through the sympathetic restoration of existing and derelict buildings. There is strong support for the restoration of derelict buildings to provide new housing units where this is done sensitively and in sympathy with the host building and its setting. Respondents gave support to the construction of a small number of new units where these were necessary to support an agricultural operation or maintain family accommodation for those employed in agriculture. There was very little support for garden infill development, presumably because this would detract from the setting and character of groups of buildings, especially conservation areas. There were mixed, inconclusive views about the suitability of individual plots for small-scale developments and few suggestions were forthcoming.

Commentary

The Plan could explore design policies to encourage and explain sympathetic restoration so that when development proposals come forward, there are clear planning criteria with which to assess proposals. As stated above, it is unlikely that the identification of individual plots or sites for new housing would be appropriate in the green belt, except where these provide environmental improvements to brownfield sites. The potential for small brownfield sites/plots would require more investigation. The support for new housing for families of the farming community is noted but given existing national and local green belt policy, only new dwellings that are required by those employed in agriculture and where there is a proven need to live in that location would be appropriate. There is no information available on the need for agricultural workers' dwellings and any policy to encourage new dwellings on this basis would need to be supported by evidence.

6. How can character and heritage be enhanced?



Responses

87% thought it was highly important to maintain greenspace. 80% thought it highly important to protect heritage and landscape assets and 70% thought it highly important to impose strict controls over conservation assets. Some commented that conservation area status was critical for some areas. 61% thought that improving run-down and under-used areas was highly important. Whilst there was strong support for the use of traditional design and the use of traditional materials, 35% thought innovative design was important and one respondent commented that modern design well executed could help to enhance the area. However, 24% disagreed.

Commentary

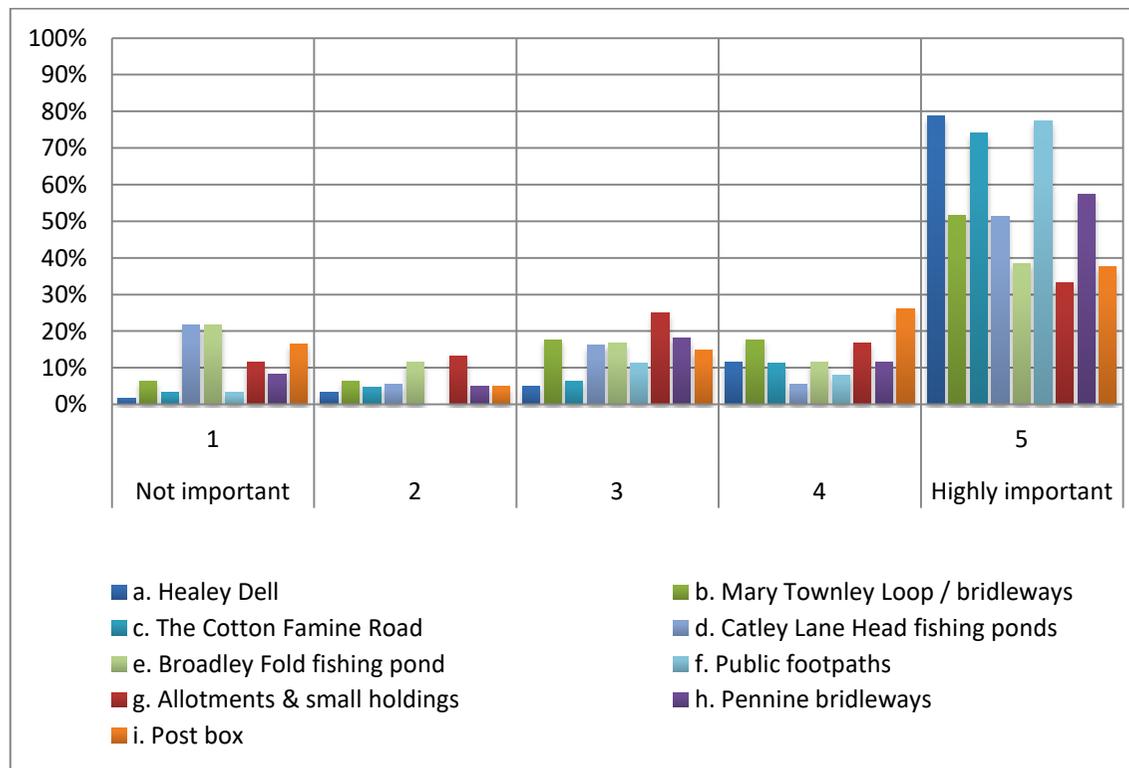
The responses show a clear message that heritage assets should be protected and enhanced by protecting and improving the quality of their setting, imposing strict controls on the design of new development and specific enhancements to the structures themselves. Design controls should seek to reinforce vernacular design and positive character through the retention of architectural features and the use of traditional materials whilst acknowledging the need to facilitate beneficial uses to secure the future of older buildings. Heritage appraisals should provide the evidence base and identify key actions and priorities so that Neighbourhood Plan heritage policies can seek to protect and enhance assets through the development process.

Whilst there was some reluctance to promote Innovative design, new and imaginative design of a high standard and in the right place can help to create interest and maintain local character. It is important though that there are guidelines and policy criteria to ensure that traditional materials are used as far as possible and that local building styles and adjoining buildings are respected.

There was strong support for the protection and enhancement of landscape assets (i.e. topographical features such as valleys, woodland, trees and hedgerows, moorland, watercourses, ponds, etc). The Plan could include a local policy aimed at identifying specific features of interest and requiring protection and enhancement as part of development proposals, e.g. tree protection and replacement, landscaping requirements, opening of culverts etc.. It would be helpful to obtain more information about landscape character, land use, hydrology, topographical and natural features, key views etc. in the neighbourhood area to establish positive aspects of character, sensitivities and issues to be addressed and the best focus in terms of character management principles.

Section 4 – Area Facilities

1. How important to you, individually or as a family, are the following Area facilities?



Responses

Overall, respondents thought the most important facilities were: 79% Healey Dell, 77% Public footpaths, 74% The Cotton Famine Road, 57% Pennine Bridleway, 52% Mary Townley Loop / bridleways, and 51% Catley Lane Head fishing ponds.

Predictably those respondents living in the area valued all the facilities, and slightly more so than those living outside. Of those outside, the highest percentage, 74% thought the public footpaths were the most important whilst 68% thought Healey Dell (Nature Reserve) was the next most important facility. The next most important was the Cotton Famine Road (58%).

Of those living in the area, the most important facilities were considered to be Healey Dell, (83%) and The Cotton Famine Road (81%), followed by public footpaths (80%). Over half thought the fishing ponds and the Pennine Bridleway were important.

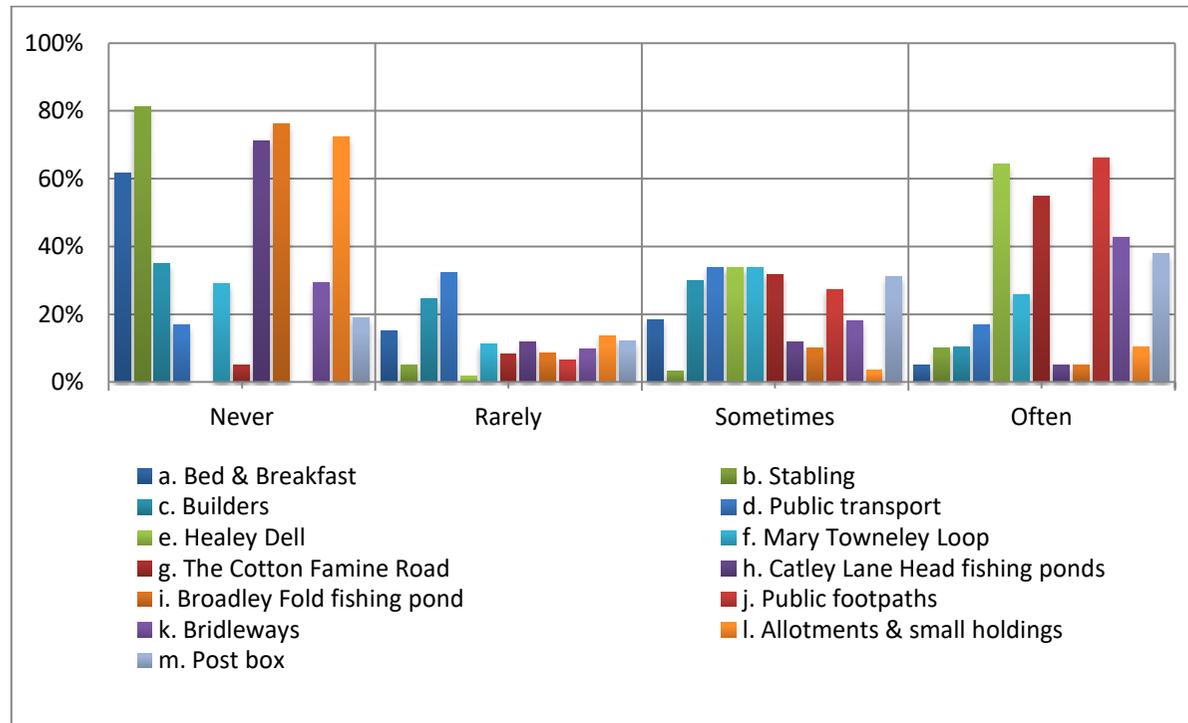
Commentary

There was agreement between those living in and outside the area that the most important local facilities were Healey Dell, The Cotton Famine Road, the conservation areas, public footpaths and the Pennine Bridleway.

This suggests that a priority for the Plan should be to protect and promote these attractions and to identify discreet areas of distinct character or potential where land use change could be managed through promoting certain uses and improvements and resolving conflicts between uses. Also, the key attraction of the area from previous question responses is the value of the local countryside for walkers and riders and therefore strategic footpaths, bridleways and cycleways are key to the enjoyment of the area in terms of linking facilities and attractions and further increasing the area's attractiveness to visitors.

Whilst Healey Dell lies outside the neighbourhood area, its value to local people suggests that links to the area should be enhanced and promoted.

2. Which of the following amenities do you use?



Responses

Overall, respondents said the most often used facilities in the area were the footpaths (66%), Healey Dell (64%), The Cotton Famine Road (55%) and the Bridleways (42%). In terms of 'most used' the responses of those living in and those living outside the area were very similar.

Other well used facilities were public transport, the post box and Mary Townley Loop although the post box is used more often by those in the area and public transport and stabling were used more by those outside the area. The fishing ponds at Broadley Fold and Catley Lane Head were rarely or never

used by many respondents although it would be expected that they are used regularly by those interested in fishing. Similarly the allotments would be well used but by a limited number of people. Not surprisingly bed and breakfast was used by only a small percentage (5%).

Some respondents commented on the poor condition of many lanes, paths and bridleways and the lack of suitable signposting. The lack of facilities for disabled people to enjoy the area and attractions was mentioned.

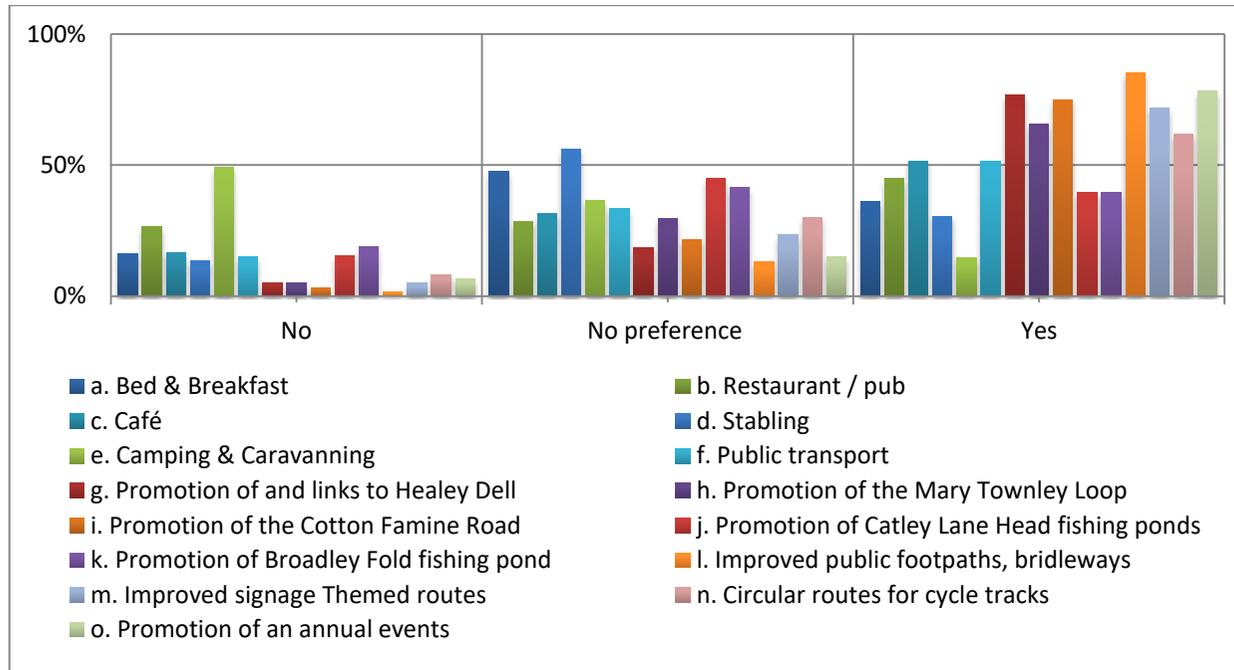
Commentary

The results reaffirm the results of Question 1 and show that the most valued facilities are those which are regularly used. Again the results show that the rights of way network is both an attraction in itself and the key to enjoying other attractions in the area.

Improved facilities for public transport could usefully be explored (as it is not clear from the responses/comments what type of improvements are sought), and possibly some assessment of the demand for overnight accommodation would be helpful (if it is the intention to promote the area as a visitor destination).

A key focus for the plan should be how to protect and improve the road and footpath infrastructure in the area (in order to improve access and encourage the rural and visitor economy) whilst also protecting the character of the lanes and footpaths and avoiding conflicts between users.

Bearing in mind the implications of increased visitor numbers, parking, traffic etc., which of the following amenities would you like to see in the Area?



Responses

85% of respondents wanted to see improved public footpaths and bridleways in the area, whilst 77% wanted circular links within the area to be promoted and links with Healey Dell improved. Better signage was supported by 77%. 77% thought the Cotton Famine Road should be promoted as an attraction and 66% thought the Mary Townley Loop should be promoted. 71% supported the promotion of themed routes with improved signage. 62% wanted to see better quality cycle routes and 52% wanted better public transport. 52% thought a permanent cafe facility was desirable although it was commented that, as this might not be commercially viable, a mobile temporary facility open at key times, holidays, events etc. might be more practical option. 40% supported the promotion of fishing ponds in the area. Less than half (45%) wanted to see a pub/restaurant facility and some commented that this would

harm the character of the area. Only 15% supported the provision of a camping / caravan site but twice as many (31%) wanted to see more bed and breakfast facilities. 31% thought more stabling facilities would be appropriate. Although not on the question list, one respondent suggested that more bins for litter disposal should be provided.

A high percentage (78%) supported the staging of more 'events' in the area.

Commentary

The support for improving rights of ways and promoting strategic links between attractions mirrors responses to previous questions. The Plan should identify key strategic routes for walkers, riders, cyclists etc. in order to protect those routes but the Forum could work outside the plan process to promote routes and provide signposting. The questionnaire did not suggest the option of better visitor interpretation facilities in general though other responses to other questions have suggested the establishment of a visitor centre to provide information, interpretation facilities and to act as a meeting point or focus. A commercially viable visitor centre facility will require significant visitor numbers and, as pointed out by a respondent, a temporary, mobile facility may be more realistic. Whilst a few thought it desirable to have more bed and breakfast establishments, demand is difficult to gauge at this time.

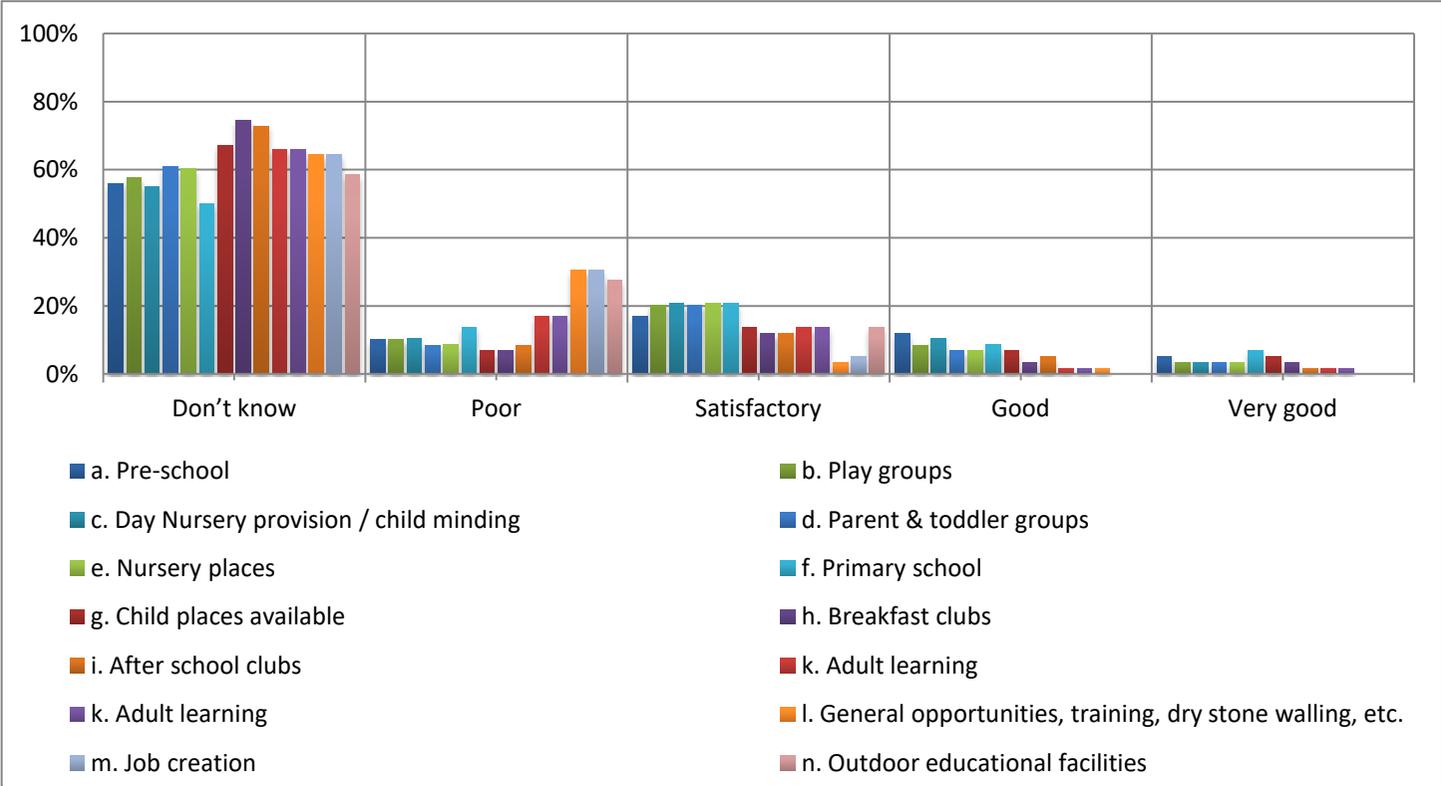
Whilst there could be commercial interest in establishing camping and caravanning sites, the sensitivity of the location and its attractions would not suggest that caravanning would be appropriate. However, a suitably located camp site for may be appropriate with basic facilities to support it . If it is the intention to promote stabling and equestrian facilities as a recreational pursuit, it should be noted that this is not an 'agricultural' use (and therefore an inappropriate use) for the purposes of green belt policy. A special case would need to be made to justify this. However the promotion of horse riding based on the area's excellent bridleways, particularly the Mary Townley Loop, is generally supported and there is an opportunity to develop the area as a key destination for riders and perhaps a centre for riders of all abilities.

Whilst the fishing ponds are not a major attraction other than for local anglers, the ponds do add to the attractiveness and diversity of the local landscape and local biodiversity and should be protected through the plan policies dealing with watercourses and flood risk.

More car parking provision was not an option included in the Question, but issues of inappropriate, illegal parking have been mentioned in response to other questions. Consideration could be given to options for dealing with visitor parking, including horseboxes/trailers, buses/coaches, cars and bikes.

Section 5 – Education

1. How well do you think the Area is served with educational facilities?



Responses

The question asked about the how well the area is served in terms of 15 types of educational provision. Some 60% said they didn't know and there was no real clarity in terms of what facilities people thought were poor or good. Most existing facilities are within the nearby urban area and therefore outside the neighbourhood area and it is not clear whether responses relate to availability in the area or outside.

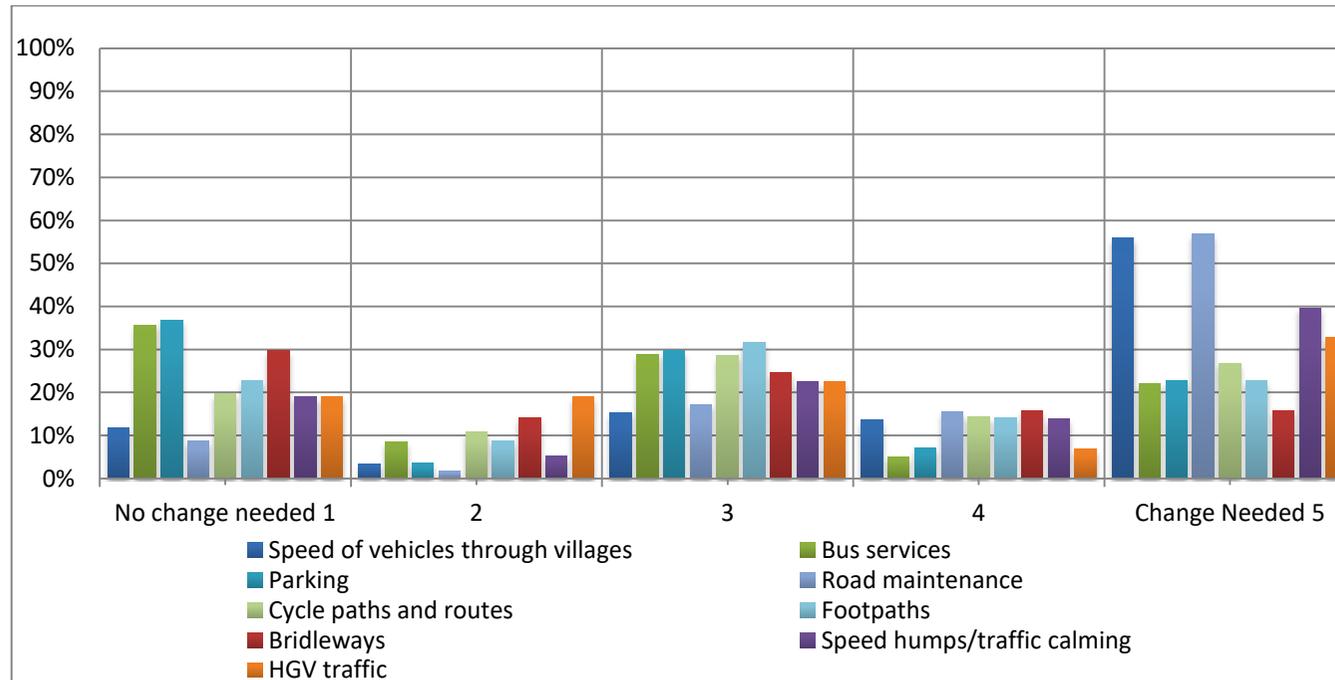
Commentary

It is suggested that in the absence of any clear consensus, the availability of educational facilities should be discussed with the Council and other providers. It is unlikely that if a need for a specific type of built educational facility is identified, it would be appropriate development given the green belt status of the area. Whilst a very low percentage acknowledged the potential of the area to provide specific opportunities for learning and job opportunities, some respondents commented that the nature of the area (i.e. its heritage connections, nature conservation value, and recreational opportunities) would lend itself to training and educational activities relating to, hard and soft landscaping and land management, farming and animal husbandry, nature appreciation and habitat management.

The promotion of opportunities for education and training connected with local heritage and rural businesses would be consistent with the Neighbourhood Forum's charitable status. Also there may be opportunities to establish centres for arts and crafts. The Plan could support the establishment of such opportunities through its policies.

Section 6 – Transport

1. In your opinion are any changes needed with regards to the following transport issues?



Responses

A large percentage thought that some or significant maintenance improvements were needed to roads in the area. The condition of unadopted roads (cobble, setted and paved roads and lanes) are considered a particular problem. Temporary repairs are regularly carried out but this is not seen as sustainable in the long term. Some 69% thought the speed of traffic was an issue and presented a danger to other road users, pedestrians, horses and riders. Hotspots identified were Rooley Moor Road leading to Catley Lane Head, Cotton Famine Road, and Smallshaw Road. Speed restrictions and traffic

calming including speed humps were supported by 40%. Suggested locations were the approach to Catley Lane Head, cattlegrid, and Prickshaw/Broadley Fold. A maximum speed of 20mph was suggested.

33% of respondents thought that heavy traffic was a problem and should be discouraged. Some called for a ban on HGV's on certain roads and where road surfaces could be further damaged. Some also thought buses should be restricted to single deck. Large farm vehicles were seen as a potential problem also.

Around 40% thought improvements were needed to cyclepaths/routes, bridleways and footpaths. 27% wanted to see improvements to bus services as they were infrequent on some routes and terminated some distance away from the area. Some respondents raised the issue of traffic enforcement and the need to tackle speeding, unauthorised vehicles, especially motorbikes.

Parking was an issue identified by 30% of respondents. There are known issues about parking on the cobbled section of Rooley Moor Road, between the junction with Knacks Lane and the Catley lane Head bus terminus. Some commented about problems caused by horse boxes and trailers used by visiting riders.

Commentary

As shown in the responses to previous questions improvements to the road and footpath infrastructure is high priority. The Plan could usefully identify where improvements are required most and to prioritise these in terms of accessibility and the need to retain original surfaces, e.g. setts. It is clear that the practice of temporary repairs to some surfaces to allow vehicular access is not sustainable in the long term and that some surfaces which provide the roads with their historic character are continually being eroded and damaged further. The plan could seek to require contributions from developments through S 106 Agreements to fund those improvements and to explore funding from other sources e.g. Council, landowners, utility companies etc. .

Problems regarding speeding and the need for traffic calming measures should be discussed with the Council as Local Highway Authority to agree key locations and suitable measures. It is clear that measures will be appropriate on certain well used lanes throughout the area where there is or could be conflict between cars, horseriders, walkers and cyclists.

Heavy vehicular traffic will continue to be a problem where deliveries are necessary but the need for a ban on some roads should be discussed with the Council. It might be useful to consider the use of discreet signage to warn the drivers of large vehicles of the suitability and condition of some roads to prevent intrusion and further damage to surfaces.

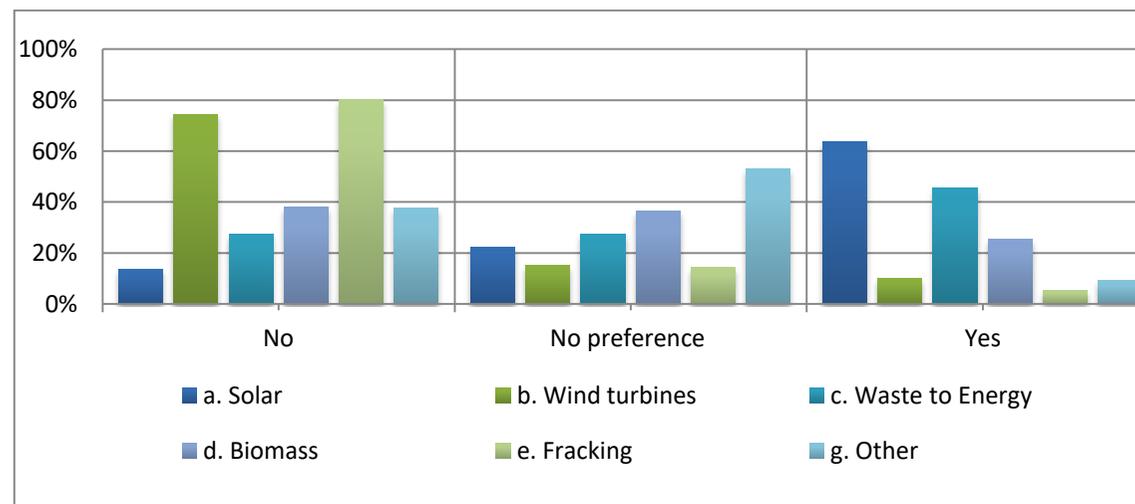
It is clear that there is a need to address vehicle parking for visitors to the area, (e.g. riders and walkers). A dedicated area or areas for parking might avoid the problem of on-street and sporadic, indiscriminate parking in the area. It would be sensible for areas such as the Cotton Famine Road not be obstructed or cluttered with parked vehicles.

The local terrain attracts some motorcyclists and scrambling can cause damage to roads, footpaths and the landscape. It would be an option to discuss with landowners whether such an activity should be steered away from sensitive and quiet areas.

One transport issue not mentioned in the Questionnaire is the issue of accessibility for disabled people. Many of the footpaths and lanes will be a challenge for those with mobility problems and whilst some improvements have been implemented to facilitate better access e.g. the fishing ponds, more could be done with regard to other attractions. Consistent with the charitable status of the Forum, there could be a greater focus on improving 'access for all' to key areas and attractions.

Section 7 – Renewable Energy

1. What types of renewable energy (installations/facilities) do you prefer, if any?



Responses

80% of respondents did not support fracking and 75% did not support wind power developments. Comments showed that there was concern about the potential impacts of fracking on ground conditions and that fracking would undermine visitor and tourism potential. Respondents commented that commercial windpower developments would harm landscape character although one respondent suggested that small scale domestic turbines might be acceptable.

Overall solar energy in the form of solar photovoltaic panels was supported by 74% although one respondent commented that panels should not detract from the appearance of properties within conservation areas.

Waste to energy was supported by 45% and biomass by 38%. It is not clear whether 'waste form energy' was completely understood from some comments received though whilst clearly a sustainable option, it is not likely there would be opportunities to promote this option within the plan area (unlike biomass).

Commentary

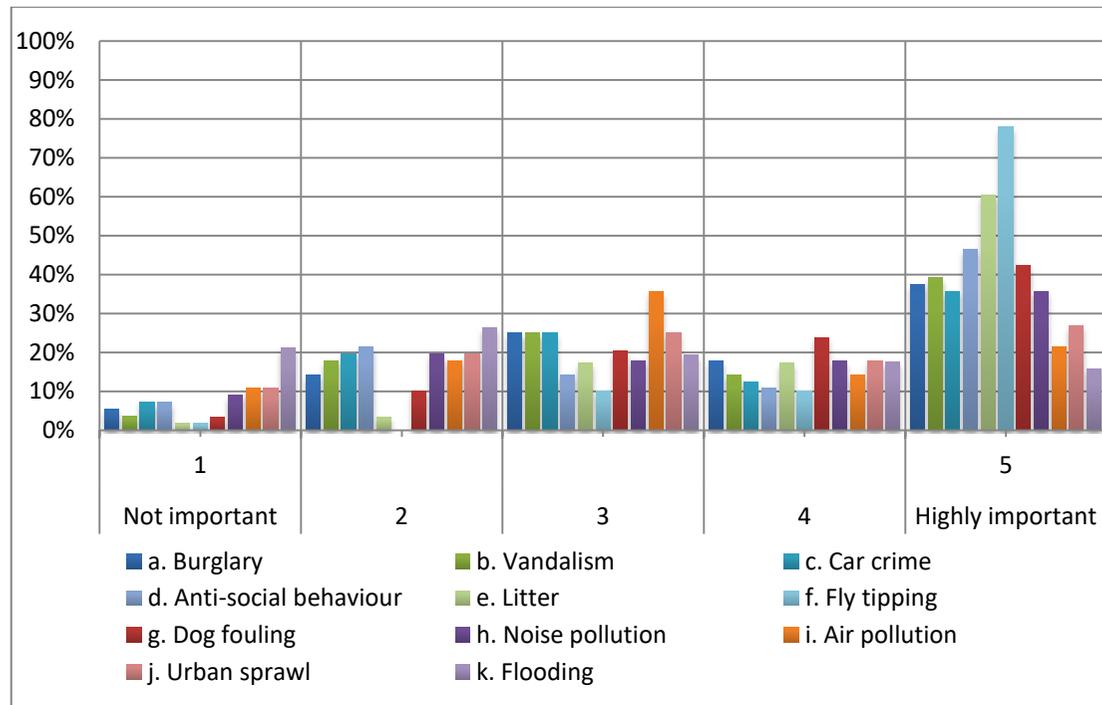
A decision on the Coronation Power proposal for a 12 wind turbines scheme adjoining the area is still pending and therefore any new Neighbourhood Plan policy on wind-farm developments would not be appropriate. High wind speeds in the area suggest that smaller scale individual turbines could be effective in generating sustainable power for dwellings and rural businesses. However, as pointed out by residents, the unsympathetic siting of turbines could harm amenity and landscape and detract from quiet enjoyment of the area and some recreational pursuits. The Local Development Plan (Core Strategy) Policies G2 and G3 set out criteria for assessing the suitability of wind power and other renewable and low carbon energy developments proposals whilst conservation area and landscape policies also set out additional requirements which would need to be met.

Biomass systems and combined heat and power systems on a small scale do not require planning permission but in some cases flues will require permission especially in relation to listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas. The sustainability of biomass largely depends on the sustainability of sourcing and transportation, but there is clearly potential to secure greater use of biomass as is the potential for sympathetically sited solar panels.

Whilst the Core Strategy includes policies on 'renewable energy in new development' or 'renewable energy developments', there may be justification for a policy in the Neighbourhood Plan to identify those types of renewable or alternative energy systems or developments that would be encouraged together with detailed criteria for assessing proposals. A policy could also set out the community's view on community energy projects.

Section Eight – Your Concerns

1. To what extent do any of the following cause you direct concern within the Area?



Responses

Fly tipping was the biggest concern expressed by respondents with 78% saying this is a highly important issue. The next most important was litter (60%). 46% chose anti-social behaviour, 42% dog-fouling and 39% vandalism. Comments state that much of the litter problems are on the Moor adjacent to

Cotton Famine Road and on well used footpaths. Fly tipping is seen as a problem in secluded pockets close to Roads and Lanes. Suggestions to tackle fly tipping include vehicle obstructions at the junction of Rooley Moor Road and Knacks Lane. It was suggested that horse fouling was also a problem on footpaths and bridleways.

Examples of anti-social behaviour included vandalism, dog fouling and litter, drug dealing at the top of Rooley Moor Road, and illegal off-roading. 36% thought car crime a problem.

16% said flooding was a concern with surface water run-off from the moors causing flooding in storm conditions. Blockages and damage to drains and grids exacerbate flooding problems and attention is needed to maintain drains and watercourses.

Noise pollution was seen as an issue by 36%, especially by those living in the area. One cause of noise pollution was large vehicles (e.g. buses) but comments made to other questions suggested that off road vehicles and bikes was another.

One respondent suggested that problems with fly-tipping, illegal off-roading, and other anti-social behaviour could be tackled by the installation of CCTV at the bus turning circle at Catley Lane Head.

Some 27% had a concern about 'urban sprawl' reflecting the desire to maintain the openness of the area.

Commentary

The Neighbourhood Plan will provide very limited scope to deal with the above concerns and tackling these will require legal and community-based solutions. Supervision and enforcement is largely a matter for the community, users of the area, the Police and RMBC.

With regard to crime, statistics show that in comparison with adjoining urban areas, problems of anti-social behaviour and car crime is low. However even limited problems of litter, fly-tipping and noise disturbance will have a significant impact due to special character and attractiveness of the area for residents businesses and visitors. 'Crime impact statements' are only required to accompany planning applications for 'major' development proposals, i.e. not for the types of small scale development proposals that are likely to come forward in the plan area. However, it would be an option for the Forum to encourage crime impact assessments relating to land management proposals, improvement schemes and small scale proposals for new and existing buildings.

Flood risk is becoming an increasingly important issue and a strategic flood risk assessment has been carried out for the area to inform flood risk management. Also policy G8 of the Core Strategy sets out the Council's policy regarding the management of water resources and flood risk and sets out requirements in relation to new development and appropriate mitigation measures. Specific problems in the neighbourhood area should be discussed with the Council and Environment Agency in order to explore possible solutions and the possible need for a local policy.

In conclusion, Plan policies could help to address some of the above concerns by:

- *identifying and promoting key routes for types of recreational traffic;*
- *identifying quiet areas where noisy activities/sports would be discouraged;*
- *promoting visitor facilities e.g. visitor information, car parking areas, bins for litter and dog waste;*
- *promoting farming, diversification and greater use of the area to maintain activity and encourage self-policing;*
- *encouraging improvements to surface water drainage, watercourses, promoting water storage, avoiding culverting, and requiring flood risk assessments for new development and major land management projects; and*
- *preventing urban sprawl through supporting existing green belt boundaries and green belt policy.*

Appendix – Issues / Information Needs / Policy Directions

Questions	Issues for the Plan	Information / Evidence Required / Policy Directions
Section 1 - Area Statement		
Q1 & Q2	<p>What design requirements/ criteria are needed to control new developments in the area in order to protect character and identity?</p> <p>How can key assets be protected and enhanced through the Neighbourhood Plan?</p> <p>How can working farms be supported in order to maintain the rural economy and the local landscape?</p> <p>Which specific greenspaces should be protected for their amenity, recreational or biodiversity value?</p>	<p>Use conservation appraisals and advice of conservation officer to draft policy criteria for new development e.g. use of traditional materials, building styles, historic detailing, hard landscaping, use of Article 4 directions to control telecoms equipment, solar panels etc.</p> <p>The Plan should identify/map key assets e.g. Cotton Famine Road, Conservation Areas etc. and include local policies on how the areas should be managed and development controlled.</p> <p>Consider including a local policy to encourage appropriate farm diversification, the re-use of rural buildings for new rural business activity, the maintenance of agricultural land and the fragmentation of viable farm units. (This needs to be discussed with farm businesses in the area.)</p> <p>Identify/map a greenspace network including accessible recreational open space, amenity open space, habitats and greenspace corridors. Draft policy to protect and enhance them.</p> <p>Discuss the need for an update Sites of Biological Importance with Council.</p>
Section 2 - Housing		
Q3 & Q4	Is it desirable / justified to promote new housing in the plan area given its green belt status other than through the reuse and conversion of rural buildings?	<p>Assess the potential of redundant or underused buildings and brownfield sites to deliver new units.</p> <p>Draft policy to indicate type and scale of new housing suitable.</p>

Questions	Issues for the Plan	Information / Evidence Required / Policy Directions
	Are there suitable previously developed sites that would have potential for housing?	
Section Three - Building Development		
Q1 & Q2	Should the Plan seek to encourage new housing development in the area other than through the re-use of conversion of buildings.	Consider options for the development of small previously developed sites if housing can bring about environmental improvements and serve a local need. Include a policy to encourage new housing units through re-use and conversion of buildings but acknowledging the potential of some buildings for rural business activities.
Q3	<p>How can the Plan define and protect those key areas of value to residents and visitors identified in the Analysis?</p> <p>How could new developments (conversions extensions) and uses contribute to funding improvements to roads, lanes and footpaths?</p> <p>How can unique local character be reinforced by new building development and what positive aspects of character are to be promoted (building styles, materials etc.)?</p> <p>Which specific historic landscape features and natural assets should be identified on the Proposals Map and how can policies seek to promote positive aspects of character?</p>	<p>Map/Identify key historic features/places (not just Conservation Areas). Map/Identify key features of natural heritage (SBI's etc.) Map / Identify key focus areas for recreation and specify appropriate types.</p> <p>Consider policy or policies to protect and encourage management of key historic areas.</p> <p>Draft a 'Design (criteria-based) policy which requires that new development and alterations to existing buildings to respect vernacular styles, use traditional materials, maintain historic detailing, etc.</p> <p>Discuss with RMBC the use of S106 Agreements to help fund improvements and maintenance of access roads.</p> <p>Consider whether sites of nature conservation / ecological importance need a local policy through discussion with RMBC.</p> <p>Consider the preparation of landscape heritage and character assessment to identify opportunities for improvement through the development process and positive action.</p>

Questions	Issues for the Plan	Information / Evidence Required / Policy Directions
	<p>How can policies seek to ensure that recreational assets be promoted without conflicting with sensitive uses and other recreational pursuits?</p> <p>Which strategic recreational links should be identified and promoted in the Plan?</p>	<p>Identify/map key natural or historic landscape features in the area and include policy to protect and enhance them and include criteria-based local policies. Discuss with RMBC Conservation Officer and Strategic Planning.</p>
Q4	<p>How can the Plan encourage the re-use of redundant buildings and structures where this helps to produce economic benefits and retain local character?</p> <p>Is there a realistic prospect of removing existing (non-redundant) pylons/cables and re-routing power cables underground?</p>	<p>Assess scope for re-use / conversion of redundant rural buildings using conservation/ heritage appraisal and local survey.</p> <p>Consider a local policy to identify a range of uses that would be appropriate in order to encourage re-use and maintaining the buildings in productive use. Consider design criteria.</p> <p>Discuss the potential for the routing of power cables including those connecting individual turbines underground with RMBC and energy companies.</p>
Q5	<p>What kind of housing would be appropriate in the area? Should new housing be allowed for those working in agriculture in the area?</p> <p>Are there small 'previously developed' sites which might have potential for new housing?</p> <p>Could developments be justified in the green belt in terms of potential for environmental enhancement?</p>	<p>Include policy to indicate the type and scale of housing that would be appropriate in the area/green belt.</p> <p>Assess whether there likely to be a need in future for agricultural workers' dwellings?</p> <p>Discuss any potential brownfield sites with RMBC.</p>
Q6	<p>How should policies seek to control the design of new development and reinforce vernacular building styles, materials and features?</p> <p>Should design /built heritage policies encourage new and</p>	<p>Draft policies and design criteria having regard to Conservation Area Assessments / Heritage Assessment.</p> <p>Discuss design criteria with Conservation Officer at RMBC.</p>

Questions	Issues for the Plan	Information / Evidence Required / Policy Directions
	<p>innovative design subject to certain key criteria?</p> <p>Which specific historic landscape features and natural assets should be identified on the Proposals Map and how can policies seek to promote positive aspects of character?</p>	<p>Identify/map key landscape features as evidence base</p> <p>Consider including a local policy to say how features e.g trees woodlands, ponds, watercourses, etc., ought to be protected from development and enhanced where possible, consistent with Core Strategy policies.</p>
<p>Section 4 – Area Facilities</p>		
<p>Q1 & Q2</p>	<p>How can the Plan protect and promote rights of way (roads and footpaths)?</p> <p>How can the Plan tackle public transport needs?</p> <p>How can the Plan promote visitor/recreational attractions?</p> <p>Should more equestrian facilities be encouraged and if so how Should demand for stabling, parking be managed?</p> <p>Should the Plan include an area-based policy for the Cotton Famine Road?</p>	<p>Identify/map key strategic rights of way (not adopted highways) and include policy to protect routes from development and to identify priorities for investment and opportunities for improvement e.g S.106 Agreements.</p> <p>Discuss public transport needs with the Council and transport operators.</p> <p>Identify/map key recreational assets (e.g. attractions such as fishing ponds, bridleways, etc.)</p> <p>Consider policy on equestrian facilities and stabling (including conversion of rural buildings for such) and discuss green belt implications with RMBC.</p> <p>Consider policy for the protection, management and use/promotion of the Cotton Famine Road.</p>
<p>Q3</p>	<p>What can the Plan do to promote key rights of way (cycleways, bridlepaths and footpaths), signposting, interpretation?</p> <p>What can the Plan do to promote visitor facilities and if so where and what type?</p>	<p>Identify/map key strategic recreational rights of way and include a policy to protect and improve those routes as resources allow. The Forum could consider providing leaflets and signposting (working alongside the Council, the key landowners and public bodies) to assist users and encourage appropriate use.</p> <p>Consider key focus points for visitors and the type of visitor information/facilities required. A Plan policy could promote</p>

Questions	Issues for the Plan	Information / Evidence Required / Policy Directions
	<p>Should the Plan promote overnight accommodation and if so what type?</p> <p>Should the Plan encourage equestrian activities some of which may conflict with green belt policy?</p> <p>Should the Plan seek to provide more parking for visitors, e.g. buses, cars, horseboxes, and if so can suitable sites be identified?</p> <p>How can fishing ponds be protected and promoted?</p>	<p>these and identify key locations.</p> <p>A Plan policy could identify appropriate types (e.g. bed and breakfast, bunk/camping barns, camp site, etc.) and criteria for assessing proposals. Consideration could be given to appropriate sites for camping.</p> <p>Consider whether it is desirable to allow additional stabling, equestrian exercise facilities and overnight supervision. Consider need for parking areas for horseboxes / visiting horses and riders.</p> <p>Consider the need for additional parking in general and whether suitable sites could be secured.</p> <p>A policy to protect key water features or a general policy on sites of ecological value could include the ponds for their biodiversity / recreational importance.</p>
Section 5 - Education		
Q1	<p>Could educational facilities for young children in the area be improved, e.g. nursery and primary school places?</p> <p>How can the Plan encourage and promote opportunities for education and training to support the local economy?</p>	<p>Discuss with RMBC Schools and Education and other providers to assess demand and supply over the Plan period.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to developing a wide range of opportunities for education and training through rural crafts, agricultural skills, tourism and recreation etc.</p>
Section 6 - Transport		
Q1	<p>What are the priorities for delivering sustainable transport improvements in order to benefit residents, farms and businesses and visitors?</p> <p>How can the Plan secure improvements to improve roads, lanes and footpaths in poor condition?</p>	<p>A Policy should identify key priorities for improvement over the Plan period.</p> <p>Discuss with RMBC the potential for securing developer contributions and funding for improvements to improve access to key attractions.</p>

Questions	Issues for the Plan	Information / Evidence Required / Policy Directions
	<p>How can cycling and walking be encouraged?</p> <p>What traffic management measures are required to control traffic type, speed, conflict with other road users, noise and disturbance, weight limits, damage to historic surfaces etc.?</p> <p>How much more parking is desirable, what type and where?</p> <p>How can accessibility within the area be improved for vehicular traffic through promoting key routes, signposting etc.?</p>	<p>The Plan should identify key routes but promoting their use and tackling issues of conflicts between users could be led by the Forum.</p> <p>Discuss traffic management options with RMBC Engineers and Planning, Police and landowners.</p> <p>Assess the need for parking at different times and identify where problems occur and where opportunities might arise to secure better more organised parking.</p> <p>The signposting of key routes and attractions could be secured outside the Plan process.</p>
Section 7 – Renewable Energy		
Q1	What types of renewable energy should be encouraged and what policy safeguards are needed to ensure renewable energy developments or installations are appropriate in the local setting?	Consider including a general criteria-based policy on renewable energy consistent with that in the Core Strategy. (Discuss suitable and unsuitable types with RMBC)
Section 8 - Your Concerns		
Q1	<p>How can the Neighbourhood Forum tackle concerns that are not related to the use and development of land and the physical management of the area and therefore cannot be influenced by Plan?</p> <p>How can the Plan seek to deal with concerns about noise and air pollution?</p>	<p>The Forum could consider an action plan or employ a Neighbourhood Watch approach to matters such as car crime, vandalism, dog fouling, anti-social behaviour etc.</p> <p>The Plan could identify quiet areas or quiet lanes where traffic and noisy activities/sports would be discouraged and where</p>

Questions	Issues for the Plan	Information / Evidence Required / Policy Directions
	<p>How can the Plan address concerns of flooding and flood risk?</p> <p>How can the Plan deal with concerns about urban sprawl?</p>	<p>noise attenuation methods could be considered.</p> <p>The Plan could include a local policy to encourage improvements to surface water drainage, watercourses, promoting water storage, avoiding culverting, and requiring flood risk assessments for new development and major land management projects.</p> <p>The Plan can seek to prevent urban sprawl through supporting existing green belt boundaries and green belt policy.</p>