

### Overview of Findings from Community Consultation held on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Ecchinswell & Bishops Green Village Halls

Around 100 residents from the parish of Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green took part in these consultation events which built on the inputs from other residents who contributed their opinions via earlier pop-up events. The key take outs from these consultations are as follows:

- All residents place high value on the rural environment of the parish, the perceived safe and friendly environment and the opportunities this all provides for enjoying the countryside, wildlife and walks. Many also value the proximity of our rural location to facilities in Newbury & Basingstoke.
- Many residents expressed serious concerns over the current level of traffic/speeding and also over the impact of any significant housing development on already stretched infrastructure and services. Other concerns were the availability of affordable housing, the need for one or more comprehensively stocked local shops and the lack of useful public transport.
- For the future, a large majority of residents want to see some but not a lot of housing development (10-30 homes) with a focus on homes that are a) affordable and/or suited to the elderly and b) in keeping with the rural environment. Residents want to see homes that are “built well for the future” not ones that are cheap and unsustainable. They also want to see maintenance/enhancement of the rural feel, the countryside/environment and the sense of community.
- A small minority (<10%) say they do not want to see any more housing in the parish.
- There is pretty well universal rejection of larger scale development because it would ruin the look/feel of the parish, create even more problems with traffic on narrow rural roads and adversely impact education/medical provision and other services like electricity & sewerage. Such development is also seen to create risk of flooding around the Enbourne and significant negative impact on the environment, nature and wildlife.
- A range of other policy areas for the Neighbourhood Plan to address were tested. These were under the broad headings of Economic and Leisure, Transport, Services and Environment. Most were seen as important or essential.

The next steps for the Neighbourhood Plan Team are to:

- Further analyse and consolidate the opinions of residents from the consultation.
- Incorporate potential new or revised policies emerging from the work Basingstoke & Deane BC are doing to update the Borough Local Plan
- Create a set of draft policies for our Neighbourhood Plan based on these inputs and over the next couple of months, test and refine these with residents.
- From this work, create a first draft of our Neighbourhood Plan for testing with residents in early 2022.
- Overall, we are still targeting the establishment of a “Made” plan by around this time next year. (A “Made” plan is one that has been through several stages of formal consultation and inspection and is ready for final approval via referendum.)

If you have any comments or questions, please contact the team via the ES&BG Neighbourhood Plan email address ([n.plan.esbg@gmail.com](mailto:n.plan.esbg@gmail.com))