

Neighbourhood Plan

The Community Survey

A Brief Overview.

In the spring of 2024, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee produced a questionnaire for residents of the parish. The aim of the questionnaire was to identify priorities and residents' issues in relation to such topics as future development, transport, infrastructure, business, services, environment, community and communication.

The survey was delivered to every household, and the response rate was 39%.

In general residents responded positively when asked about their overall thoughts on Hatfield Broad Oak with such answers to question 8 as a nice, attractive and charming village with a friendly community.

The most mentioned priority by far, was the need for more truly affordable, smaller homes for younger people to remain in the village and also for older people wishing to downsize. Question 13 showed that there was a preference for 2 or 3-bedroom houses followed by bungalows and affordable social housing.

In regard to future development, the priority for residents was protecting the landscape surrounding the parish and preserving the historic nature of the village.

Overall, the north of the parish was considered the most appropriate for future development and the preferred development size was 1 to 10 homes, followed by 10 to 25 homes.

Just over half of the responding households (51%) thought that the Parish Council should engage with landowners/developers with regard to rural exception sites and Hammonds Road and Waters Farm were the most suggested locations.

Other areas of most concern and of most importance highlighted in the survey were heavy traffic through the village and potholes. Car use was high in the village due in part to dissatisfaction with the reliability of the existing bus service.

The parish magazine was considered the most important communication method. Communication from and with the Parish Council was an area where households desired improvement.