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## Questionnaire results - a preview

The publication of this edition of the newsletter has been deliberately delayed in order to bring you a early preview of the results of the Questionnaire.

## Housing

It's clear from the responses to the Housing section that Woolpit residents appreciate the need for smaller 2-3 bedroom houses; bungalows are much in demand, and some sheltered housing for the elderly would be desirable. Owner-occupation is the preferred pattern of tenure, but given the price of houses, there is strong support for social rented accommodation as well. Many respondents did not answer these questions fully, so we will have to make adjustments to the raw data in order to give precise results.

Question 3, which asked respondents to say how important various considerations were for them, was answered much more fully.

Over 75%

think it essential

that Woolpit

remains a

village,

with

another

17%

rating

this very

important.

Around 71%

say it's essential

to protect the

village's historic heritage,

and 22% more say it's a very

important consideration. Nearly 90% of

us think it essential or very important to protect the

landscape setting of the parish, and well over 80%

think the same about biodiversity. A high quality and

healthy lifestyle for the community and good access

to key services are rated essential or very important

by about 85% of respondents, with road safety on

just over 80%. These are criteria which must guide

the Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council,

landowners and developers when it comes to

planning the growth of our village.

*"It is vital that there is a variety of housing ... so that young people in Woolpit can settle here where they have grown up"*

There were many comments about housing (205), and some were quite specific; here is one that reflects the thoughts of many people:

*It is vital that there is a variety of housing, that is not outrageously and prohibitively expensive, so that young people in Woolpit can settle here where they have grown up and have their own families. Equally there are many older residents in Woolpit who might wish to stay in the village but need to downsize to suitable accommodation or have safe accommodation to cater for their needs in advancing years.*

## Roads and footpaths

Question 6 focused mainly on parking.

Opinion on double yellow lines was split fairly evenly, but

around two-thirds of respondents agree that

businesses in the village centre would be impacted by

any parking restrictions. A large

majority (over 80%) are in favour of enlarging the Church car park, but the idea of charging for parking

there gets the thumbs down. An even larger majority say that new developments should have at least 2

parking spaces per house.

The idea of a 20 mph speed limit in the centre of Woolpit was received favourably, with the support of

around 80% of respondents. Banning HGVs from the centre (except for deliveries) had almost universal

support.

Concerning Heath Road, at least 80% of residents would like to have pedestrian crossings at both the school and the Health Centre, and support a 20 mph speed limit at certain times.

**“The village centre is a lovely place to meet people and chat”**

In response to question 8, views were again divided on the proposed road and pavement alterations to the pinch point in Green Road between Mill Lane and Drinkstone Road, and also regarding the creation of more cycle lanes; but a footpath and cycleway to Elmswell has the support of some 80% of people. There were even more comments (259) about roads and footpaths. The following is perhaps typical:

*People are deterred from walking and cycling because of the volume of traffic along Heath Road and Green Road. Speed limits are often not respected; road safety is at risk. Footpaths need better maintenance and lighting. For a sustainable future, Woolpit must resolve these problems.*

**Community**

The Community section showed strong approval for welcoming newcomers by some method, and many people said they would like to see the return of the Street Fair. The factors that create ‘community feel’ were all thought essential or very important by a substantial margin; an identifiable village centre gained the most ‘essential’ votes, and this comment (out of 125) reflects its importance:

*The village centre is a lovely place to meet people and chat. For this reason, it should be preserved and any enhancement carefully respect this.*

**Over 600 people responded to the Questionnaire. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group intend to mount an exhibition of the full results when we have had time to complete a proper analysis.**



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**Facilities**

There was strong agreement in question 13 to the suggestion that facilities for children and teenagers should be improved, and many interesting suggestions (207) for doing so - but many thought it best to ask the teenagers themselves. Most people feel that, for a village, Woolpit has good amenities. Food shops were predictably considered essential or very important in question 15, by more than three-quarters of respondents. Only non-food shops and services failed to be rated in these two categories by a majority.

**Environment**

In the Environment section, there was almost universal approval of all three statements in question 17.

Concerning potential enhancements to Lady’s Well, safe pedestrian access topped the list (over 70% approval), while nearly two-thirds of respondents would like to see the site developed for wildlife. There was also strong support for conservation work, and for better signs from the village centre. I’ll conclude this report with a comment from this section:

*Lady’s Well is a great resource which could be sensitively developed to provide a safe environment where families and young people, along with the wider community, can observe and enjoy wildlife.*