

Abbotskerswell

Neighbourhood Plan

2015 Community Survey Report



September 2015

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planning | policy | strategy | partnership

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Abbotskerswell Neighbourhood Plan Community Survey 2015

Summary Report

Introduction

This report has been prepared for the Abbotskerswell Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Its purpose is to provide the Group with the percentages and an initial analysis of the response to the 2015 Neighbourhood Plan Community Survey. The Survey was opened and questionnaires distributed to everyone resident in the Parish of Abbotskerswell at the beginning of March 2015.

Questionnaire Design and Distribution

The purpose of the Community Survey was to:

- Fill gaps in our knowledge and understanding of community issues, particularly as they may affect neighbourhood planning
- Increase comprehension and measure community opinion on key local and neighbourhood planning matters
- Test community support and reaction to recent planning and development issues
- Establish a broader base of community interest and engagement in neighbourhood planning

The final version of the questionnaire used can be found in the appendix to this report. The questionnaire comprised some 30 questions in total. It was approved for printing by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in January 2015.

The questionnaire was delivered to every dwelling in the Parish of Abbotskerswell along with the March 2015 edition of the parish magazine 'AbbTalk'. People were asked to complete the questionnaire by March 31st. A freepost envelope was provided for ease of return; or if more convenient, questionnaires could be dropped off at the Model Stores. The questionnaire was also made available via the website. Those that completed an electronic version of it could return it by email to abbplan@gmail.com. Making it available online was the main mechanism by which other individuals within a household could have their own questionnaire.

On the 31st March 2015 110 completed questionnaires had been returned. Given that the adult (over 16) population of the Parish is around 1,300, the Steering Group decided to extend the deadline and issue a prompt to ask people to return them via 'Abbtalk'. A reminder was put on the front cover of the April 2015 edition of 'AbbTalk' with a last date for return being set for 12th April 2015.

On the 18th May 2015 it was reported to the Abbotskerswell Parish Council that *"a total of 160 questionnaires have been received and are ready to be analysed"*¹.

¹ 18 May 2015 Abbotskerswell Parish Council Meeting – Approved Minutes

Response and Bias

At the end of August 2015 the total number of completed questionnaires received and transcribed; and subsequently used as the basis of analysis for this report was 167. This is approximately 12.8% of the adult population.

The initial tables below present a demographic and residential summary of the respondents to the Community Survey. It is clear that the younger members of the community are under-represented in the response. Only three of the respondents to the survey are under 25. This should be remembered when interpreting and analysing the responses.

Abbotskerswell NP 2015			
Age Group	Respondents 2015		Census 2011
11 - 18	1	0.7%	11.0%
19 -24	2	1.3%	4.7%
25 - 64	76	50.3%	53.7%
65 -74	36	23.8%	16.7%
75 -84	26	17.2%	9.8%
85+	10	6.6%	4.2%
Response:	151		

The great majority of respondents are resident within the village of Abbotskerswell.

Abbotskerswell NP 2015	
Survey Respondents Place of Residence	%
Abbotskerswell village	93.7%
Two Mile Oak	1.3%
Stoneyhill	2.5%
Elsewhere	2.5%

Abbotskerswell Today

The questionnaire set out to explore how local people viewed various aspects of the Parish in 2015. Housing, job opportunities and leisure facilities were each singled out as being an ‘area of interest’ that the Neighbourhood Plan may be able to have an effect upon.

The response table below shows that people are generally satisfied with housing and leisure provision. Around two-thirds of respondents rate local housing (64.4%) and leisure (69.2%) as either good or excellent. Most of the other respondents rate housing and leisure provision as at least ‘average’; few think that either of them should be rated as poor.

ANP 2015	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Inadequate	Response
Housing	11.5%	52.9%	31.8%	3.9%	0.6%	157/167
Job Opportunities	1.4%	9.0%	47.9%	38.9%	2.8%	144/167
Leisure	21.8%	47.4%	25.0%	4.5%	1.3%	156/167

Local job opportunities however are rated either good or excellent by only 10% of respondents. Almost half of respondents (48%) rate local job opportunities as only average whilst 42% regard them as either poor or inadequate. (We find that only 13% of the 2015 Survey’s respondents actually work in the Parish.)

The Community Survey 2015 was used to explore which of the local facilities are most used by local people. The table below shows the response in order of usage. Clearly many of the community facilities play a significant part in the life of local people. Most people say they use the shop. Around four in five respondents use the local pub and almost two-thirds of respondents report using the village hall. The church still features in the life of almost half (48%) of respondents.

ANP 2015			
Local Facility Usage			
	Yes	No	Response
Shop	97.6%	2.4%	165/167
Pubs	81.3%	18.7%	160/167
Village Hall	61.5%	38.5%	156/167
Social	48.7%	51.3%	158/167
Church	47.7%	52.3%	153/167
Café	38.1%	61.9%	155/167
Sports	21.6%	78.4%	153/167
Other	15.0%	85.0%	153/167
Education	12.1%	87.9%	157/167

Not unexpectedly, 89% of respondents also report going outside the Parish to use other facilities.

ANP 2015	
Use of Facilities Outside the Parish	
Yes	89.0%
No	11.0%
155	100%

The extent of usage of local facilities is confirmed in the table below. This table also indicates that over a third (36%) of respondents are actively involved in a local community group. Whilst this is a minority, just over 80% of all respondents do believe that the sense of community prevailing in Abbotskerswell in 2015 is either strong or very strong.

ANP 2015		
Respondent's Status		
I live in the parish	98.2%	of 166
I work in the parish	12.6%	167
I shop in the parish	73.7%	167
I use the parish's leisure facilities	41.9%	167
I am active in a local community group	35.9%	167

ANP 2015	
Sense of Community	
Very Strong	36.0%
Quite Strong	44.5%
Average	17.1%
Not Very Strong	1.8%
Weak	0.6%
164	100%

The Environment

The Survey asked local people how they rated the environment of the Parish in 2015. Nearly 90% regard the local environment as good or excellent.

ANP 2015	
Quality of Environment	
Excellent	24.7%
Good	63.9%
Average	9.6%
Poor	1.8%
Very Poor	0.0%
166	100%

People were asked what they thought was particularly good or bad about the environment in the Parish. An open question about good and bad naturally attracted a wide range of comments, many of which were not directly related to the environment.

High on the list of good things about the environment are: the positive impact of surrounding countryside; the quality of the built environment; the fact that Abbotskerswell has no through traffic; and the quality of the green areas that local people have access to. The fact that it appears clean and tidy is remarked upon by several people. Although just as many people complain under the 'bad things' about: the state of the environment; about litter and fly tipping; and about the condition of the footpaths. Irresponsible dog owners also get a lot of criticism. The negative impact and effect of parking and traffic is also regularly commented upon.

People were asked to state the three best things about the Parish. The table overleaf lists everything that was mentioned in people's top three. It is clear that people take much pride in their community and the rural area in which they live. The shop and its staff come in for a great deal of praise. The school, the pub and the church are all highly regarded.

ANP 2015	
The Best things about Abbotskerswell	
<i>Friendly, local people, community spirit</i>	56
<i>Shop</i>	43
<i>Pub</i>	31
<i>Countryside, rurality, village setting</i>	25
<i>Quiet, peaceful, no through traffic</i>	24
<i>School</i>	21
<i>Social, community facilities</i>	18
<i>Church, Church House</i>	17
<i>Built environment</i>	15
<i>Public transport links</i>	15
<i>Locality/situation</i>	14
<i>Activities, events</i>	13
<i>Safety, low crime</i>	13
<i>Village Hall</i>	10
<i>Open spaces</i>	9
<i>Upkeep, cleanliness</i>	9
<i>Community groups</i>	8
<i>Recreation area</i>	7
<i>Sports</i>	5
<i>Diversity</i>	4
<i>Housing Mix</i>	4
<i>Local businesses and services</i>	4
<i>Play areas, children's facilities</i>	4
<i>Babini's tea rooms</i>	3
<i>Parish Council</i>	3
<i>Allotments</i>	2
<i>Cricket Club</i>	2
<i>Footpaths</i>	2
<i>Quality of life</i>	2
<i>Rivers, streams, trees</i>	2
<i>Scale</i>	2
<i>Vets</i>	2
<i>WC</i>	1

People were also asked if they could change one thing about the Parish, “*what would it be*”? The response to this question is set out on page 21 and contributes to the overall conclusions drawn from the Community Survey and its analysis.

Housing

As recorded on page 2 of this report, many (64% of) local people agree that the 'quality' of the local housing stock is good or better. However there is far less agreement as to how Abbotskerswell should grow and what housing, if any, is needed. Over 70% of respondents are not persuaded that there is a need for more general 'market' housing; and the community is completely divided over the need for affordable housing.

ANP 2015	
Need for General Housing	
Yes	28.6%
No	71.4%
154	100%

ANP 2015	
Need for Affordable Housing	
Yes	49.0%
No	51.0%
149	100%

People were asked where they would prefer to see any new housing built. A number of opinions were expressed in response. Several responses were more about the general approach to site selection e.g. small infill, or brownfield sites, shared amongst the settlements etc. Although there is no discernible preferred 'strategy' to be gleaned from these responses.

The most often named locations for new housing development are Manor Road, Water Mota and Butchers Arms. Again there is no clear favourite.

It seems clear that the 'issue' of further housing development in the Parish and its preferred location needs to be the subject of further discussion and consultation.

Only 30% of respondents to the Survey offered a number for the affordable homes which they think is appropriate to be built in the Parish over the next 15 years. Most people think that no more than 20 is an appropriate scale of new housing development.

ANP 2015	
Appropriate No. of Affordable Homes	
10 or fewer	33.3%
11 - 20	39.2%
21 - 30	11.8%
31 -40	2.0%
41-50	3.9%
51 - 60	3.9%
180 - 200	2.0%
500	3.9%
	100%

Given the differences of opinion on future housing supply it is not surprising perhaps that the community is also divided over the advantages of supporting a self-build initiative in the Parish.

ANP 2015	
Support for Self-build Housing	
Yes	50.7%
No	49.3%
138	100%

Employment

It is clear that the availability of local job opportunities is not regarded as 'good' by most local residents, although that is not necessarily seen to be a problem. Less than half of 2015 Survey's respondents (46%) feel that there is a need to create more local jobs and just over 60% of people do not support the idea of more business development taking place in the Parish.

ANP 2015	
Job Opportunities in the Parish	
Excellent	0.0%
Good	6.8%
Average	52.6%
Poor	36.1%
Very Poor	4.5%
133	100%

ANP 2015	
Need for More Local Jobs	
Yes	46.1%
No	53.9%
130	100%

ANP 2015	
Need for Local Business Development	
Yes	38.4%
No	61.6%
130	100%

The 2015 Survey asked those that are supportive of new business development where they think it might take place. A number of locations get a mention from the 33 respondents that answered this question. Just over a third believe that any new business development should be focussed on the current industrial estate area. As to the type of new business people think is needed, the most often used comment is “small”. There seems to be no clear preference, and there is quite a wide spread of business types amongst the suggestions received from the 37 people that answered the question.

In the opinion of most (95%) of the respondents to the 2015 Survey, should new business development take place, businesses should be provided with sufficient off-road parking for their staff needs, so as not to add to the parking problems of the area.

ANP 2015	
Need for Business Parking	
Yes	95.5%
No	4.5%
154	100%

Broadband speeds locally have been an issue and 92% of respondents recognise the importance of super-fast broadband to those running a local business.

ANP 2015	
Need for Superfast Broadband	
Yes	92.2%
No	7.8%
154	100%

Transport

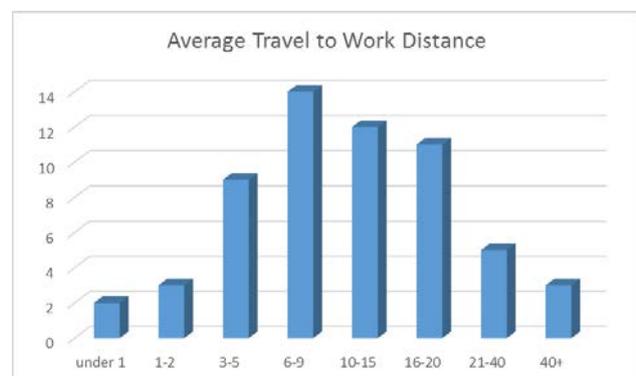
The most common form of travel, even for journeys within the Parish, is the private motor car. Almost half (46%) of all local journeys reported by respondents are undertaken by car. Just over a third of local trips are made on foot. The bus serves about 10% of the local trips. The bicycle and motor cycle do not figure much as preferred modes of transport amongst the respondents to the 2015 Survey.

ANP 2015	
Main Mode of Travel within Parish	
Car	46.2%
Foot	38.7%
Bus	11.8%
Bicycle	2.9%
Motor Bike	0.4%
279	100%

We have been aware from the 2011 Census that access to a car is relatively high. Only 7% of households in Abbotskerswell do not have daily access to a private motor car. Over 50% of households in the Parish have more than one car at their disposal. It should be noted from the table below that car ownership profile of the 2015 Survey respondents is similar to the 2011 Census. There should be little doubt therefore about the validity of the community's opinions expressed via the 2015 Survey on road and travel matters.

Abbotskerswell Access to a Private Motor Car							
	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more	
ANP 2015	7.2%	38.9%	39.5%	10.2%	3.6%	0.6%	167
Census 2011	7.9%	41.0%	34.4%	12.8%	3.9%		

The questionnaire asked people approximately how many miles they travelled to work each day. The chart shows the response from the 59 respondents that did travel and also answered the question.



70 people state on what basis they would consider using public transport as a preferred mode of travel. A third of these respondents say that nothing would encourage them to use the bus. Amongst those that might be tempted to use the bus in future, the need for greater “frequency” and more “convenience” (of timetabling in particular) are most often mentioned.

ANP 2015	
Reason You might Use the Bus	
Nothing	31.4%
Frequency	18.6%
Convenience	15.7%
If I was no longer able to drive	12.9%
Direct destination	7.1%
Nearby/suitable bus stop	5.7%
Cheaper or free	4.3%
Reliability of service	2.9%
If they allow bikes on buses	1.4%
70	100%

Local opinion on the need for road improvements is divided; as it is on the need for footpath improvements.

ANP 2015	
Need for Road Improvements	
Yes	52.8%
No	47.2%
142	100%

The Survey asked those who thought there was a need for improvements to the road network, what was needed and where. Few people have been locationally-specific but there is quite a range of suggestions; several of which related to the repair and maintenance matters.

ANP 2015	
Road Improvements Needed	
Repair potholes	21.4%
Reduce traffic speeds	17.3%
Better maintenance	16.0%
Restrict on-street parking	16.0%
Widen roads	12.0%
Improve access to main road	5.3%
Reduce flooding	5.3%
Reduce traffic volume	2.7%
Introduce cycle paths	2.7%
Improve signs	1.3%
79	100%

The Survey asked those who thought there was a need for improvements to the footpath network where it was needed. Relatively few people have been locationally-specific but the routes or locations that were mentioned in the responses are listed in the text box below:

Abbotskerswell 2015 Community Survey	
Footpaths needed or in need of Improvement:	
<i>From Vicarage Road</i>	
<i>Odlehill Grove to Court Grange Lane</i>	
<i>Route to Newton Abbot</i>	
<i>Oldhill to Manor road junction</i>	
<i>Denbury Diesel to Court Grange Road</i>	
<i>By Church House</i>	
<i>Priory Road</i>	
<i>From Wilton Way</i>	
<i>Near Court Farm</i>	
<i>Wood Lane</i>	
<i>Slade Lane</i>	
<i>From Dainton Golf Course</i>	
<i>Stoneymans Hill</i>	

ANP 2015	
Need for Footpath Improvements	
Yes	48.5%
No	51.5%
134	100%

There is much more agreement as to whether parking locally is a problem. 82% of respondents believe that there is a local parking problem. Several locations are cited by respondents where, in their opinion, car parking constitutes a problem at times.

ANP 2015	
Parking Problems?	
Yes	82.6%
No	17.4%
161	100%

Abbotskerswell 2015 Community Survey	
Locations in the Parish where there are parking problems:	
<i>Village Centre</i>	
<i>Slade Lane</i>	
<i>Mallands area</i>	
<i>Water Mota</i>	
<i>Cider Press</i>	
<i>Bottom of Wilton Way</i>	
<i>Around Church House</i>	
<i>Top of Odle Hill</i>	
<i>Odlehill Grove</i>	
<i>Odle Hill –Manor road junction</i>	
<i>Off Totnes Road</i>	
<i>On the roundabout</i>	
<i>Manor Road</i>	
<i>Manor Gardens entrance</i>	
<i>Wilton Way</i>	
<i>Forde Close</i>	
<i>Barnfield Terrace (when there is football)</i>	

How parking problems can be solved is not something on which the community seems to agree on. Less than half of respondents think that parking restrictions should be introduced. This view is clearly reflected in the response to the various parking measures proffered in the questionnaire. 57% of all respondents are opposed to residents' parking areas; 62% are opposed to additional yellow lines; and 70% are opposed to introducing restricted parking periods.

ANP 2015			
	Yes	No	Response
Support for Parking Restrictions	43.6%	56.4%	133
Residents' Parking	42.7%	57.3%	103
Yellow Lines	37.8%	62.2%	98
Restricted Hours of Parking	29.3%	70.7%	92
Support for 20mph limit	88.2%	11.8%	162
support traffic calming measures	37.3%	62.7%	158

On the more general matter of traffic and how to reduce speed in parts of the Parish, a large majority of respondents (88%) are in favour of introducing a 20 mph speed limit; but over 60% are not in favour of traffic calming measures.

There is little evidence, in the 2015 Survey's response, of a great deal of regular cycle use by local people. Moreover, almost two thirds of respondents (62%) disagreed with the proposition that a dedicated cycle path would encourage many more people to use a bike to get to work as an alternative to motor transport.

ANP 2015	
Value of a Cycle Path	
Yes	38.4%
No	61.6%
143	100%

People were asked to suggest potential routes and destinations for a cycleway. The following comment seems to sum up the view of many. *"The problem with cycling from Abbotskerswell is that all 5 roads go up hill."* There is much scepticism about the value and demand for a local cycle route. Despite this a number of suggestions (overleaf) were made as to possible locations and destinations:

ANP 2015	
Cycle Route Suggestions	
Destinations/Directions	Locations
To Langford Bridge	new housing estate at Wolborough
To Newton Abbot	Firestone Lane
To Madacombe	Priory Lane
To Ipplepen	Slade Lane
To Decoy	Vicarage Lane
To Aller	Stoneymans Hill
To Ogwell	
To Kingskerswell	
To Wolborough	
To Great Oak Cross	

Open Space

It seems that around four out of five local people think that there is sufficient public open space in the Parish. Moreover, almost everybody that answered the questionnaire (98%) believes that the public areas of the Parish are well looked after.

ANP 2015	
Sufficiency of Public Open Space	
Yes	82.8%
No	17.2%
157	100%

ANP 2015	
Views on Environmental Management	
Yes	98.1%
No	1.9%
159	100%

Those people that felt that the current amount of public open space was less than sufficient were asked to indicate what sort of additional open space they would like to see and where this might be located. There are suggestions for a village green, a community orchard, allotments, and a dedicated dog exercise field. The several locationally-specific suggestions received are set out below:

ANP 2015	
Open Space Suggestions	
Location:	Proposal:
Near Village Hall	<i>Seating and garden for older people</i>
Near Recreation Ground	<i>Wildlife and leisure space</i>
Whitbread Lane	unspecified
Field on Manor Road	<i>Landscaped park with seats</i>
Field back of Butchers Arms	<i>Nature reserve</i>
Adjacent Court Farm	<i>Stepped leisure/amenity area</i>
Village Hall Car Park	<i>Communal woodland garden</i>
Court Farm Triangle	unspecified

Those respondents that thought more could be done in terms of environmental management have commented as follows:

<i>extension of the Village Conservation area special environmental areas for conservation review settlement boundary for Abbotskerswell rubbish issues need addressing in the lanes more awareness/clearance of walking routes volunteer group for smaller jobs to maintain permanent solution to flooding stricter on dog fouling and litter louts fence between pub-green has been broken for year remove the litter church yard need more bulbs and fruit trees employ lengthman to maintain roads and pathways investigate fly tipping make owners look after their woodland removal of weeds, removal of litter, contamination by dogs insist on new homes being of traditional styles to blend in</i>	<i>extensions to blend in to the existing building, even thatched litter clearance, more dog bins, general tidying more meadow land more general maintenance, grass cutting & weeding general tidiness, weed clearance etc more flower beds/tubs deal with the Odle Hill parking problems attention to detail for housing matters maintenance for the public areas, paths etc grass cut more regularly in the Park dogs - noise, mess and spoil the environment give Parish Council more control over planning. village generally shabby, needs sprucing up return of road cleaning and clearing of weeds volunteer litter-picking tidying up of Manor Road Industrial Area</i>
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Conservation Area

Almost everybody (98%) agrees that the conservation areas in the Parish are important and should be protected. Three quarters of the respondents think more should be done to enhance the character of the conservation areas. There is also a majority (55%) in favour of extending the boundaries of the conservation area and a very large expression of support (96%) for putting in place policies covering the built environment outside of the conservation areas that impose standards of development, redevelopment or conversions, presumably to ensure that the overall character of the area is not harmed. Measures to conserve energy and extend the use of renewable energy within the conservation area and beyond however do seem to be acceptable in principle to a relatively large majority of people (85%).

ANP 2015	
Importance of Conservation Areas	
Yes	98.1%
No	1.9%
159	100%

ANP 2015			
Conservation Area Preferred Action			
	Yes	No	Response
Protected	98.7%	1.3%	149
Enhanced	75.7%	24.3%	107
Extended	55.1%	44.9%	98

ANP 2015	
Development /Design Policies outside of Conservation Area?	
Yes	96.8%
No	3.2%
157	100%

ANP 2015	
Within and Beyond Conservation Area: Energy Conservation Measures	
Yes	85.4%
No	14.6%
151	100%

Recreation

85% of local adults believe that there are sufficient recreational/entertainment facilities in the Parish. The Survey asked specifically whether it is thought that there is sufficient elderly persons' exercise equipment. More than four in five person (83%) say there is. An even higher proportion of adults (94%) think there is sufficient play equipment for children.

ANP 2015	
Local Recreation & Entertainment Provision	
Yes	84.8%
No	15.2%
158	100%

ANP 2015	
Play Equipment in the Parish	
Yes	94.4%
No	5.6%
142	100%

The Survey asked those who thought facilities were lacking, what sort of facilities they would like to see. The most remarkable thing about the response is that whilst there is a lengthy list of suggestions, few of them are made by more than one person. Of the 23 relevant suggestions received only "*more for the teenagers*", "*re-open the Butchers Arms*", "*a film club*" and "*a swimming pool*" are suggested by two or more people. The other suggestions received are:

- Bowls club
- Communal garden
- Dog walking area
- Modernise village hall
- Public toilets
- Running track
- Sports club

Few people have commented on the need to up-grade or replace existing children's play equipment in the Parish. Four respondents say that the existing equipment needs up-grading. Three persons say that there should be more equipment for older children; and a skate ramp is suggested by one person. Three of the respondents cite Ipplepen Park as a good example of the new kind of children's play area and equipment that Abbotskerswell should now have.

The need for additional recreation facilities for the senior members of the community is not an issue for most respondents to the Survey. Over 80% believe that current exercise opportunities and facilities are adequate. Those with thoughts about additional opportunities suggest there should be more walking routes with benches (5 persons suggest this); indoor gym equipment (3 persons); an outdoor exercise trail (2 persons); and an all-weather bike track (1 person).

ANP 2015	
Sufficient Elderly Persons Exercise Equipment?	
Yes	83.1%
No	16.9%
124	100%

Community Services

Local school provision is regarded as satisfactory by most people. Only the further-education opportunities are not rated highly; 55% say they think that local provision is not adequate.

ANP 2015			
Adequacy of Education Provision			
	Yes	No	Response
Pre-school	95.5%	4.5%	133
School age	94.7%	5.3%	133
Further Education	45.3%	54.7%	97

Those persons that said “no” to the question about the adequacy of the education provision were invited to suggest what more is needed. The table below sets out all the relevant comments made about additional provision.

ANP 2015	
Local Education Provision Needs	
Suggestion	No.
<i>Craft classes and/or workshop</i>	12
<i>Daytime non-vocational classes</i>	12
<i>Evening classes</i>	8
<i>Improve facilities and provision at local school</i>	6
<i>Dedicated pre-school facility</i>	4
<i>Post 16 further education</i>	3
<i>Make better use of nearby provision</i>	2
<i>11-16 club</i>	1
<i>Woodland area for environmental education</i>	1

Just over half of Survey respondents (58%) think there is reasonable access to all medical facilities for parishioners.

ANP 2015	
Access to Medical Facilities	
Yes	58.3%
No	41.7%
84	100%

The Survey asked what health facilities or services are not easily accessible, and by implication what people would like to see provided more locally. The response received is set out in the table below:

ANP 2015	
Local Health Needs	
Suggestion	No.
<i>GP Surgery</i>	24
<i>Pharmacy</i>	8
<i>Dentist</i>	6
<i>Patient transport service</i>	4
<i>Weekly outreach clinic</i>	3
<i>Local First Responder</i>	1
<i>Accept the need to travel to nearest facilities</i>	8

The Survey asked people to take an over-view of service provision and, apart from education and health, say whether they thought that “*all age groups are properly catered for in the Parish, for example the youth and the elderly*”. Almost 70% of respondents said “*yes*”. Those that answered in the negative were asked to explain what, in the way of facilities, they thought should be provided. Because of the leading nature of the question most of the comments relate young people or the elderly. 33 respondents confirm that they feel there is more needed for young people. A youth club is favoured by many; but for some it is not the answer. There is concern about the cost of providing and managing such a facility. Some people think that local young people would re-act more positively to club-based activities and events rather than facilities.

ANP 2015	
Service Provision Across the Age Groups	
Yes	69.3%
No	30.7%
127	100%

Sustainability

The availability of services is just one of the factors that people had to take into account when considering their answer to the question: "do you consider the Parish to be sustainable at present?" 85% believe that Abbotskerswell is a sustainable community in 2015.

ANP 2015	
Sustainability of the Parish	
Yes	84.9%
No	15.1%
139	100%

Those that answered "no" were asked to say what would be needed to make it so. The table below has a wide-range of suggestions but few that with 'mass' support.

ANP 2015	
Sustainability Measures	
Suggestion	No.
<i>Larger school</i>	4
<i>Renewable energy installations</i>	3
<i>Post office service</i>	2
<i>Parking plan</i>	2
<i>More young adults</i>	2
<i>More social activities</i>	2
<i>More houses</i>	2
<i>Sustainable development practices</i>	2
<i>Improved transport network</i>	2
<i>Starter homes</i>	1
<i>Sunday bus</i>	1
<i>Flood plan</i>	1
<i>Local health services</i>	1
<i>Opportunities for young people</i>	1

Renewable energy was the subject of the final question on the questionnaire. In terms of protecting natural resources and encouraging the use of renewable energy in the Parish, the community does not agree that it should be any more pro-active. Only 38% of people were in favour of encouraging “renewable sources of energy”.

ANP 2015	
Support for Renewable Energy Measures	
Yes	38.2%
No	61.8%
178	100%

Those that are in favour of encouraging renewable energy development were asked to explain how this “might be achieved”. A wide range of suggestions have been made. Clearly the most favoured ‘solution’ is the installation of solar panels on the roofs of all new buildings and encouraging local people to install panels on existing roofs where appropriate.

ANP 2015	
Renewable Energy Measures	
Suggestion	No.
<i>Solar PV on roofs</i>	21
<i>Community energy scheme</i>	4
<i>Ground and air source</i>	4
<i>Community compost scheme</i>	3
<i>Community turbine</i>	3
<i>Hydro-power</i>	3
<i>Solar farms</i>	3
<i>Community campaign</i>	2
<i>Recycling centre</i>	1
<i>Solar street lighting</i>	1
<i>Wave power(connect to)</i>	1
<i>Wind turbines</i>	1
No wind turbines	4
No solar farms	8

And Finally...

People were given the opportunity for any final comment after completing the questionnaire. 39 respondents decided to do so.

Not surprisingly many of them took the opportunity to repeat or re-inforce a point or two that they had made previously in the questionnaire. The text box overleaf attempts to capture the essential point from each of the 'any other comments' received. Taken together they probably encapsulate the main themes and messages coming from the community of Abbotskerswell parish in 2015.

The Community Survey of 2015 has given local people an opportunity to express their views and aspirations. It has encouraged them to feel that their views count and will influence policy development for the Abbotskerswell Neighbourhood Plan.

The full set of 'final comments' do make an interesting read. They also demonstrate the extent to which people care about their home, their local area and the community they are part of. It is recommended that all members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group read through them in full.

Abbotskerswell Community Survey 2015 – Any Other Comments:

- *We must value what we have and endeavour to protect our environment and enhance it.*
- *resist development and growth*
- *Wolborough development is bound to have a significant detrimental impact on our parish*
- *proposals for extra housing and businesses all appear to ignore that the road from Odle Hill is single track*
- *There are small parcels of land in the village that could be used for building or self-build*
- *cut hedges where they overhang the pavements*
- *more building would spoil this lovely village*
- *More village events*
- *Is it feasible to have village stream /pond? All our waterways hidden*
- *Village website needs much more energy put into it*
- *Enhance broadband to all of village*
- *not convinced that the village needs further material development*
- *levy a parish tax on more than 2 vehicles*
- *During the last 10 years parking is becoming worse*
- *The village identity is worth protecting*
- *work very hard to ensure Abbotskerswell remains a lovely place to live*
- *Hard look at dog fouling*
- *We do not want the village to expand and use its green fields for development*
- *parked vehicles are making it DANGEROUS especially for the young and elderly*
- *should be proactive in supporting young families and their educational needs and provide a free school bus*
- *The industrial estate looks 'tatty'*
- *Priory Road path has a very long, unkempt private wall*
- *strict development guidelines must be adhered to as the village could be in danger of being swamped*
- *shortage of small 1 and 2 bedroom property in the village - this is needed for the young starting off*
- *All residential development, especially affordable housing, should have a high energy efficiency spec. and space for two cars*
- *important for street lighting to be on during the hours of 11-3 am*
- *our main focus is conservation and not development*
- *one of the few thriving rural communities left, let's keep it like it*
- *solar panels are ugly and spoil the look of a lovely village*
- *welcome to Abbotskerswell signs are old and dirty*
- *Is a new "housing estate" behind Manor Road really necessary?*
- *only areas which stand out to me for redevelopment are The Butchers Pub and garden*
- *school really needs to develop old swimming pool site*
- *An occasional "work party" of villagers who plant bulbs and plants in communal areas might be a good idea*
- *feel very strongly about keeping Abbotskerswell village very separate from Newton Abbot*
- *no need for further building in the village except perhaps for a few affordable homes*
- *The village needs an influx of young people*
- *Preserve and enhance the character of the village*
- *Parking and speeding are serious problems*
- *Need to balance level of further development with the threshold for the need for additional facilities*

Conclusions

There is much to be learnt from the 2015 Community Survey that should influence and inform the development of the Abbotskerswell Neighbourhood Plan. On many topics the collective community opinion seems quite clear. For other topics it is less so. The diagram below attempts to illustrate the extent of convergence or divergence of local opinion on the various matters raised in the questionnaire. The Neighbourhood Plan is about shaping future development. There is obviously some disagreement in Abbotskerswell on several aspects of future development and growth. These are matters that will require further debate within the community before policies can be drawn up.



Future ‘debate’ and development of the Neighbourhood Plan should also acknowledge what local people’s priorities are. The table overleaf provides a summary analysis of the question about “*what would you change*”.

Having analysed the response to all the questions it is felt that the table overleaf is a reasonable representation of current concerns and priorities i.e. traffic and parking ‘controls’ are needed; local services and facilities should be protected and improved; any new development should be sensitively located and designed; the amenity of the village should be enhanced; local people should take more responsibility; the area has a special character lets ensure that is protected. A community agenda is emerging.

ANP 2015	
<i>What I Would Change about Abbotskerswell</i>	
<i>Control traffic in the interests of safety</i>	20
<i>Control parking</i>	17
<i>New pub or re-open the Butcher's Arms</i>	9
<i>Bring back post office services</i>	8
<i>More affordable houses</i>	5
<i>Protect green fields</i>	4
<i>Better design of houses</i>	3
<i>Control new development</i>	3
<i>Improve street lighting</i>	3
<i>More powers to Parish Council</i>	3
<i>Better bus service</i>	2
<i>Community projects</i>	2
<i>Job opportunities for young people</i>	2
<i>More green areas</i>	2
<i>More planting schemes</i>	2
<i>Prevent anti-social behaviour</i>	2
<i>Prevent Litter</i>	2
<i>Promote use of footpaths</i>	2
<i>Craft outlets</i>	1
<i>Cycle path</i>	1
<i>Free school bus</i>	1
<i>Improve broadband</i>	1
<i>Improved amenities</i>	1
<i>Introduce dog friendly area</i>	1
<i>More for young families</i>	1
<i>Prevent dog dirt</i>	1
<i>Prevent local flooding</i>	1
<i>Remove street clutter</i>	1
<i>Stop disturbance from football matches</i>	1
<i>Tidy hedgerows</i>	1
61.6%	

PW/STA/ANP/Sep 15

ABBOTSKERSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

**ABBOTSKERSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN
2015 - 2035**

Questionnaire - Have your say!



ABBOTSKERSWELL 2015 – 2035

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

General notes on Neighbourhood Planning:

1. The Neighbourhood Plan will set out where new development will go if any, what kind of development it will be, what sort of social and leisure facilities are needed to make Abbotskerswell an even better place to live and work, and how to ensure a sustainable environment in which both people and wildlife can flourish.
2. Neighbourhood Plans provide local communities with the means to make plans for their own areas. Local people can not only write their own Neighbourhood Plans but they also decide whether the plan should be adopted through a local referendum vote.
3. Before any planning proposals are made the Neighbourhood Planning Group needs to find out what the local community thinks about our Parish. To do this the Group wants to hear from as wide a range of local people as possible - residents, businesses, shoppers, young people, older people, community groups, service providers, and other stakeholders.

Specific issues relating to Abbotskerswell:

1. In our case, neighbourhood means the Parish of Abbotskerswell as outlined in blue on the map above, which includes Two Mile Oak and Stoneyhill, as well as the village of Abbotskerswell. This questionnaire is being distributed to all households in the Parish businesses and other organisations.
2. The Teignbridge Local Plan was approved in May 2014 and our Neighbourhood Plan has to comply with the key strategic policies in that Plan. The Local Plan was challenged in the High Court by the Parish Council and others over the proposed development of Wolborough and its impact on an area of special conservation. The challenge was dismissed and, although this decision is under review by the Parish Council at present, this means that there will be a significant development on our door step, part of which will fall within our Parish boundary.

The Neighbourhood Planning Group:

This Group was set up a year ago by the Parish Council which is responsible for producing the Neighbourhood Plan. It consists of 7 local people, 3 Parish Councillors and 4 others representing the wider community.

Following the Community Workshop held in June 2014, 7 other people volunteered to join the Group when the detailed work on the production of the plan starts. This has now happened but further volunteers will be welcome.

The Questionnaire:

Can you spend 20 minutes or so answering a few questions to make sure you have your say over the future of our Parish? ***Please do not feel that you have to answer all the questions.***

This is the second stage in the process following the Workshop held last June, and there will still be further opportunities to comment on the draft Plan. The questionnaire is in two parts. The first is a general questionnaire designed to capture your overall views about the place in which we live. The second part has been derived from the analysis of the responses made to the Workshop in June and is more specifically related to the issues facing the Parish.

Please note, although one questionnaire is being delivered to each household, business and organisation, individuals can obtain further questionnaires from the Model Stores where people with different views want to express them. Questionnaires are also available in electronic format from www.abbotskerswell.org.uk

Completed questionnaires will be treated in strictest confidence - you do not need to answer every question.

PART 1 – General:

1. What do you think should be the main priority of the Neighbourhood Plan?

2. For each of the following list of things in the Parish, please tick the box which you think best describes the current provision:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Inadequate
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Job Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Leisure	<input type="checkbox"/>				

3. Which of the following local facilities do you use? Please tick as many as apply.

Shop	Social	Sports	Pubs	Cafe
<input type="checkbox"/>				
Education	Church	Village Hall	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

4. Do you go outside of the Parish for some facilities? Yes No

a. If your answer is yes, which facilities that realistically could be in the Parish, are missing or inadequate?

b. Where do you go for them?

5. Which of the following applies to you (tick more than one if applicable):

- I live in the Parish
- I work in the Parish
- I shop in the Parish
- I use the Parish's leisure facilities
- I am active in a local community group

6. In your opinion, how strong is the sense of community in the Parish?

- Very strong
- Quite strong
- Average
- Not very strong
- Weak

7. How do you rate the general quality of the environment in the Parish?

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor

8. Is there anything you think is particularly good or bad about the environment in the Parish?

9. What do you think are the three best things about the Parish?

1.	
2.	
3.	

10. How do you get about in the Parish? Do you travel mainly by ...

- Car
- Bus
- Foot
- Motor Bike
- Bicycle

11. What do you think of the job opportunities in the Parish? Are they ...

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor

12. If you could change one thing about the Parish, what would it be?

PART 2 – Specific:

The key issues arising from the Workshop analysis are summarised below with relevant questions now attached for your consideration:-

Housing Development

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Is there a need for more general housing development in the Parish? | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| a. If so, where might this take place? | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| 2. Is there a need for affordable housing development in the Parish? | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| a. If so, how many would be acceptable? | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| b. Where might this take place? | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| 3. Should self-build be encouraged in the Parish? | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> |

Employment opportunities and business development

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4. Is there a need for more employment opportunities in the Parish? | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is there a need for more business developments in the Parish? | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. If so, where might this take place? | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| d. If so, what type of business is required? | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| 6. Do you consider it important that Parish businesses are able to access super-fast internet speeds? | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Do you think it would be a good idea for new businesses locating to the Parish to be required to provide sufficient off road parking for staff? | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> | No
<input type="checkbox"/> |

Transport and access, including issues around roads, cycling and paths.

8. Is there a need for road improvements in the Parish? Yes No

e. If so, what and where?

9. Is there a need for footpath improvements in the Parish? Yes No

f. If so, what and where?

10. Is there a parking problem in the Parish? Yes No

g. If so, please state where and why?

11. Would you like to see parking restrictions for the village area? Yes No

If yes, please indicate your support for:

i. Yellow Lines	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Residents parking	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Restricted hours of parking	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

12. Would you support a 20mph speed limit for the village area? Yes No

13. Would you support traffic calming measures? Yes No

Number

14. How many cars and vans are in your household?

Number

15. Approximately how many miles do you travel to work each day?

16. What would make you consider public transport as an alternative?

17. Do you think a cycle path would help the Parish's commuter transport? Yes No

h. If yes, please state where it should go to?

Protection and creation of green spaces, gardens, allotments

18. Do you think that there is sufficient public open space in the Parish? Yes No

i. If no, please indicate what sort of open space you would like to see and where this might be located.

19. Do you think the Parish conserves and enhances its general environment? Yes No

j. If no, what more could be done?

Protection of important buildings and assets including the conservation area

20. Do you consider the Parish’s Conservation Area important? Yes No

If the answer is yes, should it be

i. Protected Yes No

ii. Enhanced Yes No

iii. Extended Yes No

21. Is it important to you that there should be definite policies for design and build relating to any development outside of the Conservation Area? Yes No

22. Should these policies include the latest recommendations relating to energy conservation? Yes No

Development of community facilities such as for entertainment and leisure, recreation and community activities

23. Generally, do you think that there are sufficient recreational/entertainment facilities in the Parish? Yes No

k. If no, indicate what sort of facilities you would like to see.

24. Specifically, do you think there is sufficient children’s play equipment in the Parish? Yes No

l. If no, indicate what sort of facilities you would like to see.

25. Specifically, do you think there is sufficient elderly persons’ exercise equipment in the Parish? Yes No

m. If no, indicate what sort of equipment you would like to see.

Awareness of the various age groups which make up the village.

26. Do you think that educational facilities for the Parish are adequate?

	i.	Pre-school	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	ii.	School Age	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	iii.	Further Education	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

n. If no, what more should be provided?

27. Do you think there is reasonable access to all medical facilities from the Parish?

o. If no, what facilities or services are not easily accessible?

28. Apart from education and health, do you think that all age groups are properly catered for in the Parish, for example the youth and the elderly?

Yes

No

p. If no, what facilities should be provided?

All developments must take account of environmental aspects, and be shown to be sustainable

Yes

No

29. Do you consider the Parish to be sustainable at present?

q. If no, what would be needed to make it so?

Yes

No

30. Do you think more should be done to encourage renewable sources of energy in the Parish?

r. If yes, how might this be achieved?

Any other comments you would like to make not covered in the above...

Please indicate which part of the Parish you live or work in as this will help in the analysis of the questionnaires:

- Abbotskerswell village
- Two Mile Oak
- Stoneyhill
- Elsewhere

If you would like to be kept informed of future stages of the Neighbourhood Plan, please provide your contact details below. Any information will only be used in connection with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

Name			
Address			
Email		Tel. No.	

Age bandings. To help our analysis of the questionnaire, it is useful to know the age range of the consultees. Please would you indicate the age band you are in...

11-18	19-24	25-64	65-74	74-84	85+
<input type="checkbox"/>					

When you have completed this questionnaire, please return it by March 31st.

- by the freepost envelope provided, or
- by email to abbplan@gmail.com
- drop in to the Model Stores

For further information, and to complete the questionnaire on line, please see the Parish council's website www.abbotskerswell.org.uk

Copies of this questionnaire may also be downloaded from the website above.