

The Eaton Bray Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Summary for Steering Group meeting on 04.10 2017

Background

Based on various questionnaires adopted by other villages a sub-team of the Steering Group prepared a framework for discussion for the full Steering Group meeting on 20 July. It took a couple of hours to prepare a draft questionnaire and this was circulated to the full Steering Group (SG) for their opinions. Final draft was agreed and printed and delivered to all households in Eaton Bray about a week later. Post boxes for the completed questionnaires to be deposited were placed in the Edlesborough Post Office Village Shop (EPO) and the Eaton Bray Village store (EBS).

Six waterproof A3 posters were prepared and placed around the village and two large banners were strategically positioned in prominent positions to advertise the two drop in sessions.

14th August 6.30 pm – 9.00 pm 1st drop in session (DS1) at the Coffee Tavern. Approximately 130 attended and post-it papers were filled in as well as questionnaires.

An interim preliminary analysis of 205 questionnaires was presented to the SG meeting on 21st August, together with a draft spreadsheet. The members of the SG decided on more advertising and to send another flyer reminding villagers of the 2nd drop in session and one more questionnaire to all households. This task was carried out in early September.

The SG agreed that all the written comments from the questionnaires should be collated and analysed for the SG to review after the second drop in session.

16th September 9.30 am – 12.00 midday 2nd drop in session at the Coffee Tavern

In total 340 questionnaires were received for analysis from the boxes in the shops, drop in sessions and 4 via the Parish Clerk last week.

All the results have been summarised into the Questionnaire spreadsheet and the Comments spreadsheet and a full check for accuracy of the preliminary analyses of the first 205 questionnaires proved the analysis to be accurate.

After all 340 questionnaires had been entered into the spreadsheet a 10% audit of all the results was performed by a second person to check for transcription errors and check that the 'Comments' as documented reflected those on the hardcopy questionnaires. This audit of the data entry into the Questionnaire spreadsheet proved the entry to be accurate and the comments in this spreadsheet matched those written in the comment boxes of the questionnaires.

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Report of the responses to the Eaton Bray Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Results and Analyses

Half of the villagers (50.3%) who responded to the questionnaire were in the 65 + age group*
Approximately a quarter (23.5%) of the responders came from the 55 - 64 age group
About 13% who responded to the questionnaire were from the 45 – 54 age range
6.5% of the responders were from the 35 – 44 age group
3.2% were in the 25 – 34 age group
2.6% who completed the questionnaires were aged between 16 – 24 years
8 (2.4%) were of unknown age
98.5 % of the responders are residents of Eaton Bray; 1.5% unknown result.
7.1% of the responders work in Eaton Bray.
39.7% of the responders provided their name and 58.8% their postcode

**Demographics of Eaton Bray: 24% of the village are 65 years +; 60% are in the 16 – 64 age group; 16% < 16 years. 1170 dwellings (2015) ; population 4,300 residents in 2013; 80% home ownership with 11% socially rented and 9% privately rented in 2011 (Refer to: Eaton Bray Ward Profile August 2015 published by CBC)*

Q1 What do you like about living or working in Eaton Bray?

LIKES in order of popularity were:

“Easy access to countryside” 91.5%
“Rural atmosphere and open views” 88.8%
“The village is surrounded by Green Belt” 86.8%
Public green spaces eg The Green” 84.1%
“Peace and Tranquility” 82.4%
“Village identity” 74.1%

The above answers reflect how much these characteristics are greatly valued by most of the residents of the village who answered the questionnaire. Many have expanded the above responses with their views in the comments boxes ie. they want EB to stay a village and not become a town and not to be further or over developed.

Relatively less liked were:

“Sports facilities and public recreational spaces” 43.5%
“allotments” 41%
“Range of places of worship” 37.9%

These results possibly reflect the level of satisfaction, relevance or importance the responders place on the above activities in their personal lives.

Q2 What do you dislike about living or working in Eaton Bray?

60.6% responders to the question were discontented with the “Limited public transport”
50% did not like the “Poor or variable mobile signal”
39.4% were unhappy about “Flooding and Drainage” in Eaton Bray
The “Loss of Orchards” was disliked by 40% which possibly related to new development where the orchards used to be; the orchards representing an important part of the history of Eaton Bray.
25% did not like the ‘Lack of safe cycle routes’ and the ‘Lack of a care facility’ in the village. The lowest level of dislike was regarding “Light pollution from street lighting” being 11.2%.

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Q3 Would you support a Community Energy Scheme Approach in Eaton Bray?

Approximately 30% of residents did not respond to this question at all. About ¾ of the non-responders were in the 65+ age bracket. One reason for the reduced response could be that there was insufficient information readily available to have the knowledge to compare these technologies, although, for those who have a computer the information is on the net.

Solar panels (many commented “not farms”) were the most popular with 49% supporting this energy scheme. Electric car charging points were the next most supported with 34.7% ticking this as a potential facility. Heat pumps, biomass, anaerobic digestion and wind turbines scored 16 – 17%. However, there were many who put “NO” or “None of these” to Q3. There were strong feelings on both sides as indicated in the comments boxes. An analysis of the comments is provided in the appendix at the end of the report.

Q4 If you consider traffic an issue in the village which solutions do you favour?

Good response and strong feelings as evidenced in the comments, summarized in the appendix.

Villagers are thoroughly fed up with the high speed of the traffic going through the village streets and the “Introducing a 20mph speed limit” met with 56% ticks which was the highest % answers achieved for Q4

“Mobile police camera (on occasions)” was favoured by 52% followed by “Traffic calming measures” with 48% and “Speed watch” 39%.

28.5% wanted “Cycling routes around the village” and 19% “Better signage for walkers”.

Some of the above comments are for the Parish Council to take up and may not be possible to address in a NP.

Q5 What matters to you when considering any future housing in Eaton Bray?

When considering any future housing in Eaton Bray “Protection of the Green Belt” mattered most to residents as evidenced by the fact that 88.2% ticked this and it was by far the highest % result in this section.

“The Eaton Bray Conservation area” mattered to 69.7% of those who responded.

There was a strong indication (67.4%) for “Off road parking” when considering any future housing

“Additional infrastructure” mattered as evidenced by 55.3% responders ticking this question.

“Density of housing” and “Design of house” mattered to half the responders

“Housing for elderly downsizing” appealed to 46.5%

“starter homes” mattered to 41.2%

“infill / extension of existing footprint” mattered to 35.3%

29.1% ticked “Affordable housing”

26.8 % voted for “A care/nursing home”

16.8% ticked ‘Executive homes &/or 2-3 bed houses” but several people crossed out the exec homes

Social housing and Flats found favour with only 10% and 5% respondents respectively.

Conclusion

Aside from traffic and transport issues, the overall conclusion of the survey was to protect the green belt and preserve Eaton Bray as a village without more large housing developments. Specifically lacking in support was social housing, flats and executive houses.

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APPENDIX : SUMMARY OF ALL COMMENTS ADDED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRES

Topic	Comment Category	Number	Topic Total	Commentary
Traffic	Speed, volume of traffic is an issue	51	130	The subject of traffic in the village prompted more comments than any other topic. Most comments indicate that the volume and speed of traffic is a significant issue. Interestingly though 11 respondents specifically stated traffic is NOT an issue and 7 are strongly opposed to a 20 mph limit - very much a minority view, as 56% of all respondents indicated they are in favour of a 20mph speed limit. With respect to traffic calming 10 comments were anti speed humps, but 2 were specifically in favour. 33 comments were in favour of restricting parking on the High Street even though this is a "natural" traffic calming measure.
Traffic	Restrict parking on High Street & pavements	33		
Traffic	Speed Cameras Required	12		
Traffic	No Speed Humps	10		
Traffic	PRO 20 mph	8		
Traffic	Additional parking required	7		
Traffic	HGV's using village	5		
Traffic	Cycling is dangerous	2		
Traffic	Introduce speed bumps	2		
Traffic	ANTI 20 mph	7		
Traffic	Traffic calming causes issues	2	11	
Traffic	Traffic NOT an issue	2		
Development	Retain small village community	23	102	The majority of these comments indicate strong support for maintaining Eaton Bray as a relatively small village and not expanding or developing outside its existing boundaries. A small amount of development would be acceptable, however there is a strong resistance to more executive homes with more than 3 bedrooms. Preference is for smaller dwellings at the lower end of the price range. Provision for the young and the elderly would be supported (although there is one comment specifically against a care home).
Development	No large or high density developments	15		
Development	No executive homes	13		
Development	No development at all	12		
Development	Homes, bungalows required at lower prices	11		
Development	Protect green belt & open spaces	11		
Development	Provisions for elderly & disabled	8		
Development	Care home required	3		
Development	Small business development is desirable	2		
Development	Small restricted development is OK	2		
Development	Care home should not be located in EB	1		
Development	No Social Housing	1		
Energy	Lack of understanding of energy options	10	36	There are a large number of respondents who did not answer this section at all or who only ticked one or two boxes. There were ten specific comments that stated a lack of sufficient understanding of the technologies referred to in the question to be able to answer one way or another. There would appear to be some resistance to large scale energy schemes. At least 2 strong objections to community schemes.
Energy	No wind turbines	9		
Energy	No solar farms	8		
Energy	Pro renewable energy schemes	8		
Energy	Electric car charging points reqd	1		
Infrastructure	Doctors Surgery, Schools need improvement	33	33	Most comments expressed concern that further development would put too much strain
Roads	Poor Road Surfaces	19	19	
Public Transport	Poor public transport	4	7	
Public Transport	Improve public transport	3		
Other	Other	39	58	A wide range of comments which are not relevant for the neighbourhood plan. EG. Pub is too expensive, newcomers should not be commuters, don't like dog mess on the streets, ban cyclists from Bison Hill, Market Sq is named incorrectly as it is actually Market Place.
Other	Lack of pub & restaurants	8		
Other	Lack of sports facilities	5		
Other	Lack of police, crime	3		
Other	Eaton Bray is safe	2		
Other	Improve mobile phone signal & broadband	1		
	Total number of comments		396	NB. 181 Respondents made at least 1 comment