

Questionnaire Report

Introduction

The principal results from the questionnaire are summarised. A full analysis can be accessed via the questionnaire introductory page.

The eligible respondents to the questionnaire were people who live or work in the parish of Mortimer and are 16 years of age and over.

The following convention is used when quoting percentages:

- 'Agreed' or 'supported' is the sum of 'strongly agreed and agreed'
- 'Disagreed' or – signed number is the sum of 'strongly disagreed and disagreed.'

Highlights

- 1285 responses were received which is little over 40% of the estimated electoral roll. The results are a good representation of how the whole community view the options put forward at the 95% confidence level.
- 1259 free format comments were received.
- All three principles were strongly supported.
- 84.8% supported the St John's site as the only site or as the principal site accommodating the majority of the new development: 15.2% disagreed.

Questionnaire Summary of Responses

Principles

Three principles were proposed. The responses are summarised in the table below.

Question	%age Agreed	No of Responses
Principle 1 - The NDP must make it possible for people to live the whole of their lives in the parish if they so wish	80.0	1267
Principle 2 - The NDP will ensure that new residential developments will be within or adjacent to the existing settlement envelope boundary and, ideally, close to the centre of the village (Post Office, bank).	73.1	1200
Principle 3 - To make the schools and health/welfare infrastructure proposed in the Second Principle effective for as long as possible, the NDP should allocate and reserve space near the centre of the village to enable the provision of them (when approved and funded):		
New, larger St John's Infant School with associated parking	79.7	1247
New doctors' surgery with associated parking	78.4	1247
Try to develop plans for a possible relocation of St Mary's Junior school nearer to the centre of the village	50.4 -23.3	1246

Each of the above questions about the principles had several subsidiary questions that detailed how the principles could be delivered.

Question 6 *'If you have any comments about anything in Questions 3 – 5, particularly if you have disagreed strongly or disagreed with anything please write them here'*

Three hundred and eighteen responses were received. The top 5 themes concerned

Theme	No of Comments
Don't move St Mary's School	74
Doctor's Surgery	70
Schools	61
Development Sites	54
Parking	40

Site selection

1228 respondents registered their site preference. The overwhelming majority of the community favour the 'St John's' site and a substantial majority selected the St John's site as the preferred option for all 110 homes. 187 rejected both proposed options

	Questionnaire	
	Result %	+/-
St Johns Only (Option a)	54.6	2.33
St John's for majority of homes plus Kings St and infill (Option b)	30.2	2.14
Neither a) or b)	15.2	1.67
Total No returns	1228	

The +/- is at the 95% confidence level

Question 8 – *'If you responded neither a) or b), please tell us where you think 110 homes should be built in Mortimer'*

Out of the 187 who rejected both the proposed options, 164 responded to this question.

Analysis of 'Neither a) or b) Comments.

	Number	Percentage of those that selected neither a) or b) in QU 7
Number of responses to Qu 7 that rejected both the proposed options'	187	100.0%
Number of responses suggesting other site(s)	164	87.7%
General comments /no alternative site suggested	26	12.3%
Number of responses that suggested alternative sites	138	73.8%
		Percentage of suggested alternative sites (138)
Number of responses suggesting a number of smaller distributed sites	81	58.7%
Number of responses suggesting alternative single large site	21	15.2%
Number of responses that do not want any more houses in Mortimer or selected sites outside Mortimer	24	17.4%
Other sites	12	8.7%

What types of additional homes are needed in the parish?

The types of homes that got more than 50% support were

- Bungalows (80%)
- Semi-detached 2/3 bedrooms (79%)
- Starter homes 1/2 bedrooms (77%)
- Sheltered accommodation for the elderly (66%)
- Terraced homes 2/3 bedrooms (59%)
- Flats with 1/2 bedrooms (56%)
- Affordable homes – rented (53%) and shared equity (53%)

3 types of dwelling were supported by less than 50% of respondents and with more than 25% disagreeing:

- Detached houses with 3 or more bedrooms
- Houses with workshops attached for cottage industries
- Houses with office space for home workers.

Design Principles

88% supported the proposition that a Site Development Design Brief will be prepared for each site selected for development.

Site Design Features

The proposed site design features were all endorsed by a substantial majority.

- Rural footpaths which link to the centre of the village
- Cycle ways which link to the centre of the village
- Open green space
- Wildlife habitat e.g. ponds, wetlands, bird and bat boxes
- Play areas
- Have any necessary street furniture finished in black

The exception was 'Layouts which encourage the formation of a number of smaller communities' supported by 45% and with 35% neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

Adherence to the 'Building for Life 12' principles was supported by over 80% of respondents

Lighting

There is a strong preference for limited/no lighting in new developments.

Out of 1177 responses

- 34% favoured "No street lighting";
- 28% favoured "Ground level lighting on pavements and paths",
- 24% were for "Lamp post lighting at junctions only" and
- 13% want "Lamp post streetlights throughout"

Building Features

All the proposals for building design features were strongly endorsed:

- Have no buildings higher than 2 principal storeys (or 3 if using roof space)
- If bricks are used these will be red/orange in colour, similar to those of the Victorian buildings in the village
- Have roofs of red tile or grey slate
- Have gabled or hipped roofs rather than flat roofs
- Encourage energy management technology to encourage reduction in waste (eg intelligent thermostats and consumption monitoring via mobile phone)
- Use details such as coloured brick inserts, mouldings or patterns of raised brick around windows or between levels, similar to those on existing buildings in the village

Commercial and Employment

The conversion of redundant farm buildings to office space was fully endorsed with 72% strongly agreeing/agreeing.

Office space

43% of responses disagreed with the allocation of land for a small number of small office units. Conversion of existing buildings received limited support – 42% in favour and 33% neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

Retail Provision

None of the propositions for additional retail activity received strong support.

“The conversion of existing buildings in the village to retail” and “Applications for new retail outlets by independent and local businesses” received the strongest support with 48.4% and 46.5% support respectively: There was a substantial minority against either of these developments with 23.1% and 27.7% respectively.

“The allocation of land for new retail units” and approving “Applications for retail space by high street chain businesses” were rejected with 57.3% and 78.3% disagreeing with the propositions.

Other Provision

Both “A small number of start-up premises” and “The building of a childcare nursery by a business” were supported by 47% of respondents.

The propositions for the provision of “A small number of small light-industry units”, “Large commercial or industrial activity or Warehousing” and “Solar farms that conform to the NDP principles” were rejected: 45%, 88% and 46% respectively disagreed with the propositions.

The three most preferred facilities to support business were superfast broadband (85%), better public Wi-Fi coverage (44%) and a Mortimer-specific website on which businesses may advertise was supported by 39% of respondents.

Infrastructure Development using CIL

The following were selected with more than 50% of respondents agreeing/strongly agreeing with the proposition:

- More bike racks at the station (63%)

- Contribute to the development of a community/sports centre on the Alfred Palmer Playing Field (58%)
- Provision of Allotments (55%).

“Purchase and refurbish Garth Hall” as a new community centre”, a “Village recycling centre” and “CCTV on the Fairground” received significant support with 40%, 48% and 42% agreeing with the propositions. 28% disagreed with CCTV on the fairground.

The proposition for the provision of “Public toilets in the centre of the village” produced strong opinions both for and against with 41% for their provision and 39% against.

51% disagreed with the development of a new village hall.

Question 19 ‘Please tell us if there is anything else you would like to see CIL spent on’

Two hundred and sixty six responses were received. A large number of suggestions were made and a wide variety. The top 4 suggestions are shown in the table

Theme	Number
Sports Facilities	35
Station Car Parking	34
Station Bus Services	31
Traffic	28

Parking

- 93% of respondents supported the provision of Station car park enlargement
- 55% supported converting verges to hard-standing laybys on both sides of road from station roundabout going towards Grazeley
- Just 34% supported additional car parking space in the centre of the village.

Heritage

43% agreed with developing the Bronze Age barrows near the western end of the village in Stephens Firs and Holden’s Firs into an attraction/amenity for the village. 22% disagreed and 35% held no strong opinions.

Biodiversity and Green Spaces

All the propositions for biodiversity and green spaces were supported with the exception of “*Existing green spaces may be used for new development as long as more than equivalent provision is provided close at hand*” which was disagreed with by 59% of respondents.

96% and 89% agreed with the proposition that the Fairground and the Alfred Memorial Playing Field should be designated a “Local Green Space”

Question 23 ‘*Are there any other green spaces you would like to be designated for protection?*’

One hundred and sixty four responses were received suggesting a large number of spaces to be defined as a “Designated Green Space”.

Question 26 ‘Any other Comments’

There were 347 responses. The responses were categorised into themes. Many of the responses commented on more than one theme. Listed below are the most common themes.

The largest number of comments (97) was about the way the village develops, that creeping urbanisation will be the norm and the Vision of Mortimer would be lost. Typical of these concerns are about the design of a new development urban/semi-urban rather than rural village, pervasive and intrusive street lighting, loss of green space and access to the countryside, and the appearance of what is considered inappropriate commercial developments. Comments on ‘affordable’ housing (34), design (40) and traffic (49) are all a reflection of the concerns of respondents about the way Mortimer will develop. Most of the comments are not negative (nimby) ones but genuine concern for the development of Mortimer.

58 comments were received on the topic of site selection. There were many and varied points made. The most common ones were concern about the development of the village and need to contain village expansion (8), supporting statement for the option ‘all on the St John’s site’ (8), 2 comments objected to the St John’s site, other strands were concern about traffic, suggestion that development be nearer the station, against in-fills with 3 comments each. 22 comments were received about the Kiln Lane site. These arose, in part, because Hallam Land Management posted flyers to every household whilst the questionnaire was open proposing a development on the North field of the Kiln Lane site. 14 responses objected to the use of the Kiln Lane site, 4 were positive and 4 were general comments.

Theme	Number of References
Village Development	97
Site Selection	58
Traffic	49
Design of Homes	40
Affordable Homes	34
Station Parking	32
Commercial	25
Lighting	25
Against Street Lighting	17
For street lighting	4
Minimal Lighting	4
Parking	23
Kiln Lane	22
Against HLM Kiln Lane Proposal	14
For HLM Kiln Lane Proposal	4
Questions about HLM on Kiln Lane Proposal	4

A full analysis of the responses to the questionnaire is available in 'Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Questionnaire'

The analysis of the free form comments are available on the Mortimer NDP website 'Stratfield Mortimer Evidence Base'