

## Question 26 'Any Other Comments' Design

Thirty four respondents commented on 'design'. A significant proportion wanted similar building architecture to the Edwardian/Victorian or to be in sympathy with that architecture with some comments on not being a pastiche. Concerns about having straight lines of similar/identical buildings or being too 'formulaic'.

Re question 15 use details such as coloured brick .. respondent commented 'neo-Victorian?'
If Mortimer has to accept 110 new homes, then they should be in keeping with the village character & its demographic. Rather than the development options a proper integrated development plan should be generated. This would consider long term development over perhaps the next 50 years.
Sadly many of the newer developments in the village have introduced some of the very things we don't want such as street lighting and dense housing. ... We don't want to be turned in to a version of lower Warley!!
With regard to the design of any homes built I would like to see some elegant, new design solutions, not 'fake' old / twee cottage boxes. I think the houses in Strawberry Fields are ugly, they do not blend into the existing character properties, but they are not good design from the 21st century, please can we have something creative and desirable, not houses you see on every other housing estate all over the country, I want something special for Mortimer please ?? aesthetic + fit for purpose together!
People *need* places to live in and also have aspirations about the kind of place in which they would *like* to live. Village Development is a racket which inexorably satisfies the former at the expense of the latter. So when development is essential we should absolutely prioritise features which support and grow the existing sense of community and the value of living in this place rather than another. So incentives to remain (local employment, schooling, care), possibility of returning (affordable homes) are both central. Also new homes should in some ways be better than existing stock. Investing in a place means more than just enlarging it, it means well-made, flood-proof, energy efficient homes. Green space is often termed an amenity - as if it were simply here for our benefit. To me the plant and animal life surrounding and penetrating the village is also part of its community. Growth and support of that natural community is no less important than for the human one. So we should weigh more than just the total area of green space, its proximity/accessibility etc. We should consider how development affects biodiversity and the connectedness of the space used by wildlife, and how mitigation can be introduced into the built environment. This implies support for keeping space between villages (not just for prettiness' sake) and within villages - as islands of wild and cultivated space (allotments, wild patches, ponds, roof gardens etc.) and avoidance of infill, which shrinks established gardens.
I have noted that the council will enforce building regulations or plans the buildings recently erected behind me do not adhere to plans and I have complained to the council with no effect due to the height my vision of the trees and sky is severely limited. My neighbours have agreed and commented also.
Please ensure that any housing developments have a sympathetic design so that we do not end up with 'cookie cutter' housing which will clash with the rest of the village.
StrawberryFields was the biggest mistake ever made in Mortimer - it has had a huge impact on the village, most notably the increase in crime. The fact that so many of the houses have changed hands must say something. There are some lovely people who have moved into the village, and fit in completely, but there are also those who don't belong, or even want to be in a village. The whole friendly feel of the village has changed, and that is what people enjoyed. The few small clusters of new homes, scattered throughout the village, have integrated well, and not been noticed too much, but large developments WILL DESTROY

MORTIMER, and why should we all just lie back and allow the value of our homes to decrease. Any local people who would like one of the smaller, affordable, but very pretty little cottages in Mortimer, are certainly not going to want to live in the middle of a large housing estate - that is not village living, and how many of those in affordable housing in Strawberry Fields are local, or people downsizing within Mortimer - very, very few, if any at all!? Leave Mortimer, and the beautiful surrounding countryside alone - we are full enough.

ensure that all new builds have more than the statutory minimum of insulation and also their own energy generation methods eg PV, solar hot water and wind if possible. We would have no objection to seeing windmills near the village. New builds should also have ventilation with heat recovery.

Housing should be good quality village homes with ample garden space.

New houses should incorporate rain water harvesting, solar panels etc - not only good for environment / flood alleviation etc, should also provide residents with extra disposable income, and therefore more money to be spent / recycled back into the community. Re style of houses, important that attractive barge board detail is used, as per many of the other houses in the village. Also, no 'cheap' upvc windows, i.e. The one's with large panes and thick frames!

I see the plan talks about making the developers provide green spaces and all the rest of it; well the council should dig in and make sure that not only do they maximize green space, but ALSO: - insist EVERY house has 2 car park spaces - insist EVERY house has a decent sized garden, and by that I mean a minimum of two times the area of the ground floor of the house.

Q13 - what does this mean? This is a developers crazy suggestion Q15 - + enough spaces for cars x 2 at least per unit (bins hidden) (driN pipes hidden)

I want to see a mix of new housing. The mix would be spatial as well as in number so that different types of houses sit alongside on another. I would like to see different styles of houses too so that any new estates do not look too formulaic. I am particularly keen to see new houses exceeding building regulations for energy efficiency with at least a few exemplary low energy buildings, such as passiv haus designs.

more consideration should be taken so that any future development does not affect the surrounding properties and ruin what people actually came to live in Mortimer for.

Keep the feel of the area, but do not put so many constraints on the development that makes it impossible or very difficult for developers to be able to conform to. We do need these developments as they are good for Mortimer and the people who live here all ready and hopefully new residents

The fact remains that development is a natural progression, for improvement of our society. I am in favour for new developments to be sensitive to the look and feel of the Bfl 12 questions.

The beauty of the village is the mix of housing and open space that encourages community interaction & provision for varied events. The village has lost many attractive buildings and I feel any new development should be considerate of local stone/building styles so we do not build more generic/bland housing areas. The new Budgens is an example where practicality has won over aesthetic value. Any new developments would benefit from ensuring we have plenty of green space, front gardens, tree planting to perpetuate the rural village feel. ... I would prefer a mix of developments rather than one big estate to be built. To encourage community spirit and a village culture smaller streets, open spaces, cul de sacs would be better. Labyrinthine estates tend to be soulless and would be in direct contrast to the existing village lay out. I agree that a mix of housing type is what the village needs, however if we wish to see more housing stock on the market we also have to consider houses to down size to. Providing terrace & semi detached homes are not overly attractive to people who have been used to detached homes. We also need to see smaller detached properties available to ensure there are moving options at all stages.

As much as is possible should be done to prevent mortimer becoming just another commuter village, with row after row of identical houses. Any new areas built on should be

characterful, and, unlike Strawberry Fields, not have the feeling of being entirely separate from the village itself. If possible, new developments should adhere to the current layout of the village, as opposed to a grid structure with a road setting the development back from the main road, which may be considered advantageous to the developers, however in reality creates a sense of alienation from the residents of the development.

Whilst I appreciate the government dictates that houses must be built, if the roads are designed to complement humans rather than be car centred, there should be no need for cycle ways and footpaths. Let's work toward maintaining Mortimer as it is and ensuring that any development that has to go into the village has as minimal impact as possible..

People would cycle more if it was safe & accessible to do so ( includes jogging or walking - multiuse path adjacent main roads away from village centre) Crowthorne & Sandhurst, Owlsmoor and surrounding areas have had shared paths for many years that are great for getting about & recreation..

Need to enhance public realm Ugly parade of shops lets village centre down Need to promote attractions and historic features

I would prioritise the use of imaginative modern architecture over traditional appearance, to maximise the number of homes created in a given space.

Mortimer has to accept these houses, but the development must preserve the village feel and vibe which is loved by everyone who lives here. ... The green spaces in Mortimer should be protected as this is part of what Mortimer is about new houses should be in keeping with the Victorian designs and should be allotted decent sized gardens - not like so many other developments where houses are all on top of each other and the gardens are tiny.

Q15 comment - (a) Three storeys enable a ground floor to be used as garage (b) ground floor flat for elderly (c) smaller area for same amount of living space Q16 comment - new houses should have solar panels

New houses must be in keeping with the existing village.

New houses not to be built so close together like at Strawberry Fields, and with more allocation for parking so the pavements aren't littered with parked cars.

Please only allow new developments to be built with character. Strawberry fields is not very nice - looks modern/"samey", lacks character - even looks like a film set. Does not fit in with the rest of the village and the direction I would rather the village take (if more houses have to be built).

Ref qu 14 and Street furniture - Not sure what this means, if it means, waste bins, benches, signs then I agree. Plant plenty of trees as a buffer between new development and existing dwellings, bushes good for birds/wildlife i.e. berry, nut trees,. Also good for sound barriers.

keep character of Mortimer as a small, commuter village, not a small town No new large buildings (schools / medical centre / offices etc) (Allowing the recent development of Budgens was unforgivable. This is a building you must expect in a city High St., not in a small village)

Houses need to reflect the changing lifestyles for those working (flex working and often home based) and those retired or caring for children - a minimum of 2 living spaces plus kitchen should be required to enable the housing stock to appeal to a wide range of people. Small, effectively 1 living room houses limit the longevity of time that people will live in it for and reduce the diversity of population.

No mention on noise levels in this survey or nuisance from more households such as bonfires etc. Minimal noise pollution must be considered by the developers, taking note of wind direction and planting to avoid increasing levels throughout the village. Covenants for new households to prohibit the use of bonfires and excessive lighting.

I think the Strawberry Fields development is excellent in its overall plan, mixture of housing types, architectural design of houses, use of open space. I hope something similar can be achieved for the new development(s). PS. I have no personal connection with the Strawberry Fields development.

If we want to keep development in the centre of the village and not expand the envelope, we cannot afford to also have lots of space between the houses

