

## **QUESTIONNAIRE ON CONTENT OF DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONTENT & SUMMARY OF RESPONSES**

### **1. Content of questionnaire**

- 1.1 The questionnaire formed part of the consultation process on the Draft Plan in July and August 2016. It was available to complete on the Town Council's website. Paper copies were also available at the Pye Green Community Centre, Hednesford Library and were also distributed at consultation events in Hednesford park and at the Tesco store in Victoria Street.
- 1.2 The questionnaire asked whether the proposed policies should be included in the Plan and how important people rated them. It also provided an opportunity for people to add further comments about individual policies and any other matters that the Plan should deal with. A copy of the questionnaire is attached.

### **2. Summary of responses**

- 2.1 A total of 219 questionnaires were completed. The answers to the specific questions which were quantifiable are set out as a series of bar charts attached to this report.
- 2.2 In relation to the 7 policies relating to the town centre, policies TC1 to TC5 received over 90% support. The two most important policies were considered to be funding to enhance the viability of businesses in Market Street and action to retain the character of Market Street frontages. The proposal to extend the station car park received over 80% support and provision of retirement housing at Station Road ( policy TC7) received over 70% support. The lower rate of support for this latter policy is partly reflected by general comments that more housing should be provided for young people/first time buyers.
- 2.3 In relation to town centre facilities there was support for re-introduction of a market, demand for larger shops, clothes shops, restaurants a cinema, theatre bowling alley and hotel. All people who raised the issue of town centre parking wished it to continue to be free.
- 2.4 Over 95% of respondents supported the policy OS1 to protect open spaces and over 93% thought the policy was important or very important. The main other area of open space considered worthy of protection was Pye Green Valley which was not included in the plan because it is already protected in the District Council's adopted Local Plan. Over 91% of people thought tree planting was the most important improvement which could be made to open spaces. Provision of new play equipment received less support ( 57%) reflecting some respondents who thought new play facilities should be concentrated at Hednesford Park.
- 2.5 The list of buildings of local importance ( Policy BE1) received over 93% support. The identification of the Lower part of Greenheath Road as an area of special character ( Policy BE2) received over 81% support. Only one person thought that St. Saviour's Church on High Mount Street should not be included, one person did not want the former Queen's Arms at Hill Street included in the list, one person objected to the

inclusion of the Plough & Harrow PH on Uxbridge Street and one person objected to inclusion of the Pye Green Telecom Tower.

- 2.6 The two policies H1 and H2 to provide bungalows on housing developments received support at 85% and 83% respectively. The lower rate of support for the specific site for a retirement complex at 66% reflected the point already made in paragraph 2.2 above that housing for the young was also important.
- 2.7 In relation to the policy on business parks EMP1, 89% agreed that it should be included in the Plan and 71% thought it was important or very important.
- 2.8 Other facilities on some individual respondents "wish lists" in addition to the town centre uses mentioned in paragraph 2.3 above were more space for allotments, promote Market Street as a Conservation Area to attract heritage funding, cycle storage at train and bus stations, minimum car parking standards of 2 spaces per house + 1 for visitors, community play area for children on the Cornwall Road estate, water jets for children at Hednesford Park like those at Victoria Park Stafford, bandstand and mini golf in Hednesford Park, traffic calming on Greenheath Road, 20mph speed limit on Market Street, more parking for the disabled close to junction of Market Street and Victoria Street, art culture and live music events, more leisure opportunities for teenagers.
- 2.9 People were given the opportunity to state their age group, gender, employment status, ethnicity and disability status and these results are also set out in the bar charts.