



# BRIDPORT AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**Consultation July-August 2017: report of responses**







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## 1. Introduction

Neighbourhood Plans are a planning tool which provides communities with the opportunity to shape the future of their locality. A Neighbourhood Plan must take account of current and future development needs; outlining what needs to be developed (housing, facilities and services), where they need to be developed and what form they should take.

The Neighbourhood Plan can be used to:

- Develop a shared vision for Bridport and its neighbouring parishes
- Influence where new homes, shops and other developments should be built
- Influence the type, design and layout of new developments
- Identify important amenities such as green spaces and ensure they are protected

## 2. Background to the survey

A consultation was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan group in July and August 2017 as a process to find out: 'are we on the right tracks?' Work had already been undertaken by the group through 2016 and early 2017 to speak to local people at events and through surveys, to find out what the land use priorities are for the area. This then had to be balanced against national planning regulations, including what a Neighbourhood Plan can and cannot do, as well as what the current Local Plan for the area states (as the Neighbourhood Plan must not undermine it).

The cumulation of this work was summarised in a leaflet and included a survey to ask every household whether they agreed with the emerging ideas so far (see Appendix A for the survey). The responses will help shape the Neighbourhood Plan priorities moving forward.

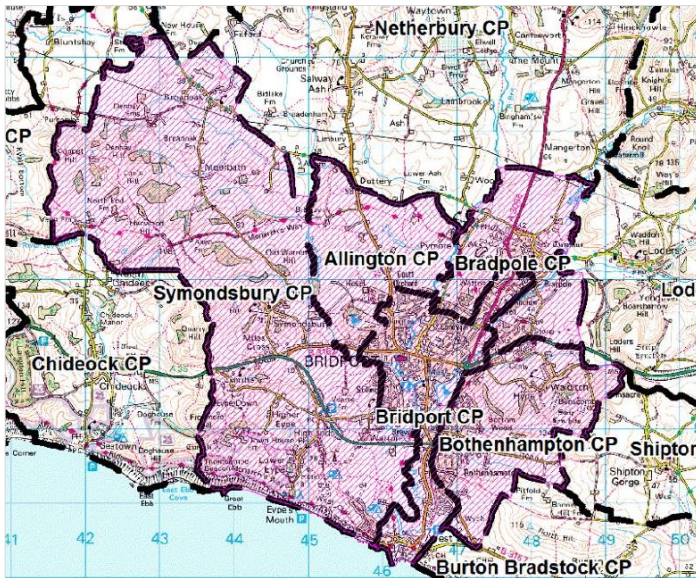


## 3. Methodology

The emerging 'intentions' of the Neighbourhood Plan were summarised into simple, clear bullet points, with questions that asked if the respondent agreed with that point or not, or did not have a view. These were grouped into the theme areas of Housing, Transport, Economy, Environment & Heritage, Climate



Change and Community Facilities. More detailed information was available on each on the website [www.vision-2030.co.uk](http://www.vision-2030.co.uk) .



The summary leaflet was distributed to every household in the Neighbourhood Plan area; across the parishes of Allington, Bothenhampton & Walditch, Bradpole, Bridport and Symondsburys (around 7,500 households). Additional copies were also made available online and at key sites such as the public library, the Town Council offices and the Tourist Information Centre. Alongside the paper survey, there was also an online version available.

To help publicise the process, alongside an active social media campaign, three press releases were issued and used by local newspapers at the beginning and middle of the consultation period and in the final week. The consultation was eight weeks long in total (from 10<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> September), and posters were put up across the area to remind people of the closing date for survey responses. There were also nine parish meetings or 'surgeries' publicised for people to attend and ask any questions they may have on the consultation and the Plan. These were hosted by the parish councils and some also had members of the Neighbourhood Plan group there to advise and help with any questions raised.

Finally, members of the Neighbourhood Plan group held stands at both the Melpash Show on 24<sup>th</sup> August and the Symondsburys Fete on 27<sup>th</sup> August, again to help raise the profile of the consultation and to remind those that had yet to complete their surveys that they could do so at those events.

665 people responded to the survey, 556 on the paper version and 109 online.

## 4. Summary of findings

23 questions were included in the questionnaire (see Appendix A). There was a variance in the response rates to questions, with not everyone responding to every question. Although 665 people submitted questionnaires in total, the highest number voting on a particular question (in this case question E4 in Economy regarding the independent retail character of the town) was 652.

In addition to the questions requiring a yes/no/no opinion response, space was available for respondents to provide additional comments. 838 comments were received and some of these have been split where more than one topic was covered in the response, leading to a total of 1,073 comments.

The comments have been grouped by priority area and question and then by topic. This is not an exact process, but is a way to see the broad areas of consensus and disagreement in the responses. The full comments can be viewed in Appendix B and the rate and type of responses by question in Appendix C.

In terms of the yes/no/no opinion votes, all apart from one question received a comfortable majority 'yes' vote. Question H4 in Housing which asked if the Neighbourhood Plan should: 'Allocate new sites for development for up to 100% social housing?' received a 49% no vote, 40% yes and 11% no opinion. The comments that accompanied this vote reflect the overwhelming view that if social housing is built, it should be integrated, not created as (a) separate development(s).

The one question that did not ask for a yes/no response was Housing H5, which asked if the Neighbourhood Plan should: 'try and allocate land outside of the existing built up area to accommodate all, some or no affordable housing?' 10% responded All, 62% Some and 28% None. The comments attached to this showed a preference for utilising brownfield sites first and protecting green spaces and the AONB as a priority, although there was general support for additional lower cost, rented housing.

The key issues (most commented) raised for each priority area are summarised below:

### **Housing**

- Priority for affordable housing should be given to local people
- Need to meet the needs of particular groups (young, elderly, key workers)
- Disagreement/difficulty with the Government definition of 'affordable'
- Suggestions for the types of housing needed (bungalows, like Dibdin View, smaller sites)
- Importance of sustainability in new developments (zero carbon, energy efficient)

- Importance of good standards of design
- Housing should be integrated, not 100% social
- Prioritise the use of brownfield sites and existing properties
- Against building on greenfield sites/AONB
- General support for additional lower cost rented housing
- Second/holiday homes (1 for, 16 against)
- The need for better infrastructure and services for new developments

## Economy

- Recent planning decision/Local Plan designation of St Michaels – where does this leave the Neighbourhood Plan?
- Regeneration/tidy of St Michaels is needed
- Retaining employment on St Michaels is important/ concerns about risks to current businesses
- No need for additional employment units in the area – should protect existing sites, but not expand
- Support for protecting and increasing employment sites
- Need to balance any expansions with the need to protect countryside/green spaces
- Support for the independent shops and character of the town
- Requests for a balance in the types of shop (not too many of one thing, e.g. charity shops)
- Additional retail needs – what is currently missing in Bridport
- Support for local jobs generally
- Need for town Wi-Fi

## Transport

- Bus services need to be protected/improved
- Improvements to cycle paths are needed
- Concerns about the cuts to bus services
- Improvements to footpath maintenance needed
- Speed limits – majority for a reduction, some against
- Parking for new development
- Pedestrianisation of South Street – 8 for, 7 against
- Modernisation/improvement of the bus station needed
- Bus station area could be reduced in size
- More/improved town centre car parking needed
- Suggestions for a multi-storey car park
- Need to protect existing car parks
- Against the use of Asker Meadows for car parking
- Park and Ride needed
- Sensitivity of using out of town green spaces for parking
- Concerns about the volume of traffic in and around the town
- Improvements to the A35 needed
- West Bay car parking needed
- Provision for electric cars



## **Environment & Heritage**

- Promoting a balance between heritage and modern development – they can be complimentary
- Protection of heritage is a priority
- Areas identified for protection as valued green spaces
- Support for protection of green spaces generally
- Support for greater control over changes to shop frontages/includes contemporary
- Balance green space protection with the need to provide housing

## **Climate Change**

- Solar panels – 10 for, 2 against
- Need to balance energy efficiency measures with the cost of installation and running
- Suggestions for types of renewables (8 for, 1 against)
- Concerns for potential impact of renewables on sensitive landscape
- Climate change measures should be a high priority
- Projects suggested to help reduce carbon footprint locally

## **Community Facilities**

- Importance/value of Bridport Leisure Centre to the local area
- Cost of using the leisure centre – too high for some
- Other leisure facilities that are needed in the area
- Play areas – improvements or new needed
- Sport/play areas to be protected

## **5. Responses by priority area**

The breakdown of responses by priority area and questions follows:

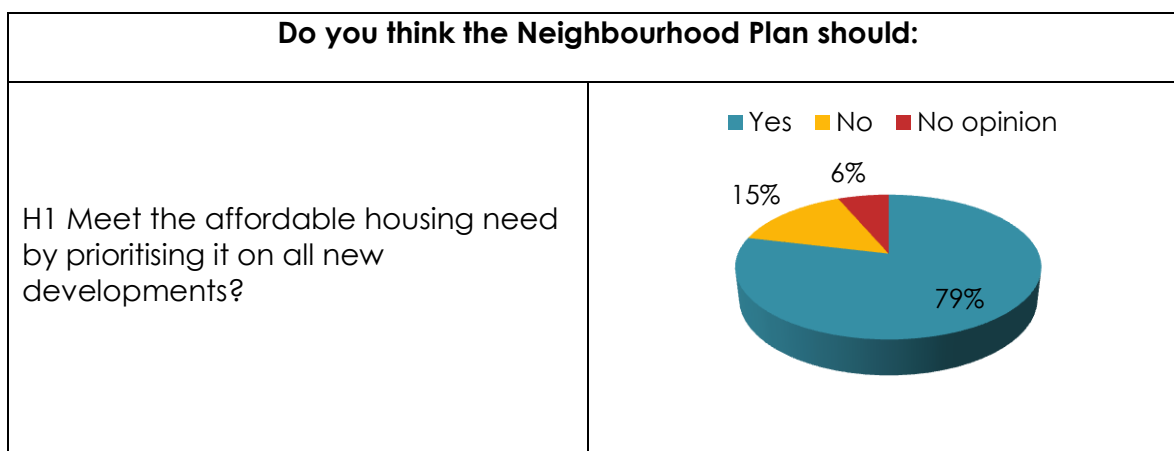
## Housing



### 5.1 Housing

Up to 647 votes and 307 comments were received for the Housing priority. The responses to each question are summarised below:

#### Question H1



#### Comments

94 comments were received relating to question H1 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Priority for affordable housing should be given to local people	30
Meeting the needs of particular groups (young, elderly, key workers)	19
Disagreement or difficulty with understanding what the government's definition of 'affordable' is	11
Need to enforce the 35% affordable housing requirement in the Local Plan	10

## Housing

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
The merits of private versus social/Community Land Trust housing and vice versa	8
The importance of managing affordable/social rented housing in the longer term	5
There should be a higher level of affordable housing than currently requirement in the Local Plan	2
General/other comments	9

## Question H2

Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:									
H2 Make sure the type and size of housing built best meets the local need, and that it is well integrated with other developments?	<p>■ Yes ■ No ■ No opinion</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Question H2 Pie Chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>91%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No opinion</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	91%	No	4%	No opinion	5%
Response	Percentage								
Yes	91%								
No	4%								
No opinion	5%								

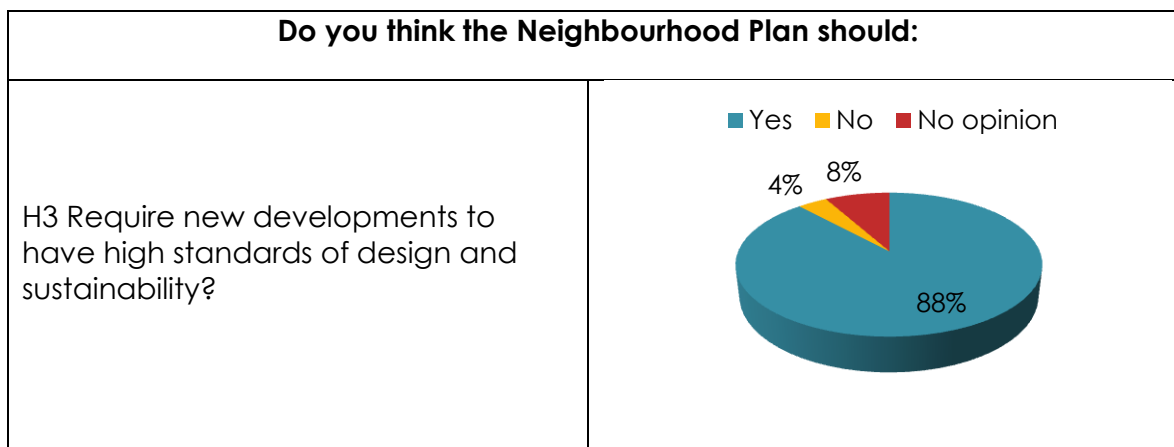
## Comments

5 comments were received relating to question H2 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Types of housing suggested (more bungalows, more like Dibdin view, smaller sites and not like the West Bay flats)	4
What is the definition of local need?	1

## Housing

### Question H3



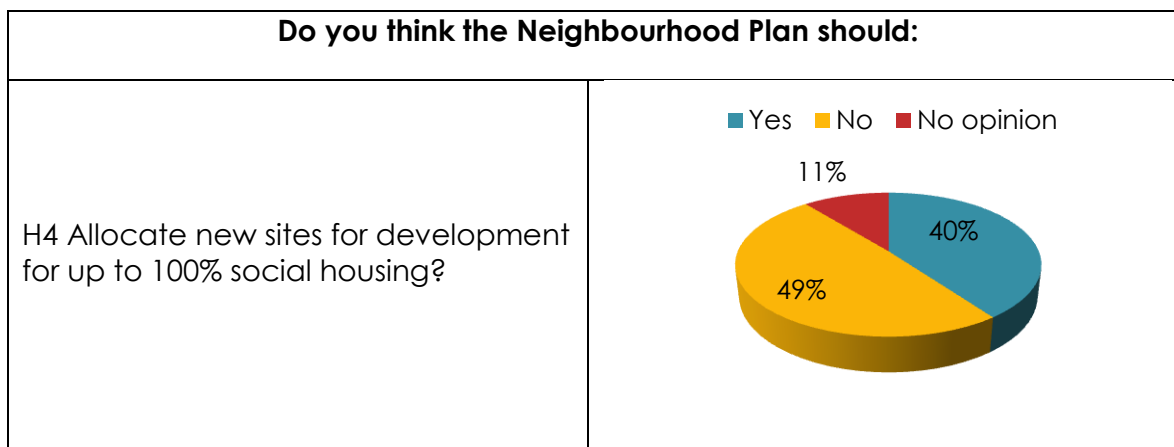
### Comments

23 comments were received relating to question H3 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Importance of sustainability in new developments (zero carbon, energy efficient etc.)	7
Importance of good standards of design	6
Importance of siting – e.g. avoiding flood prone areas	4
General/other comments	6

## Housing

### Question H4

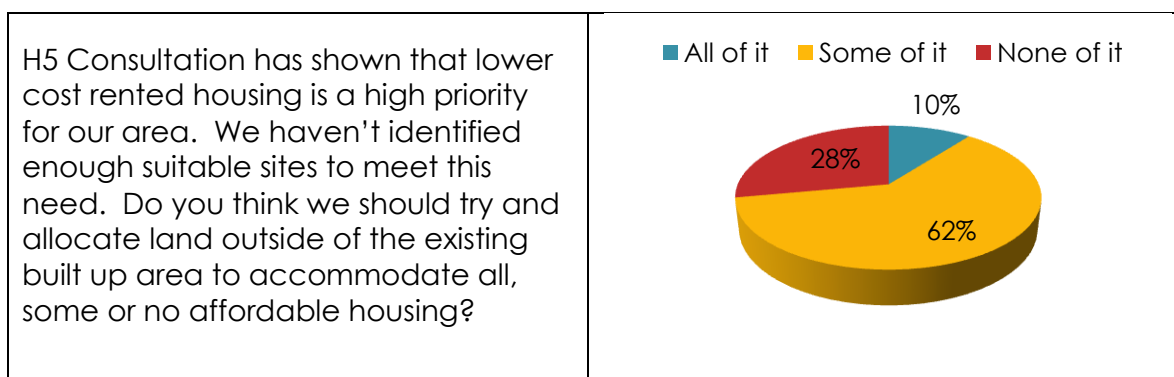


### Comments

46 comments were received relating to question H4 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Housing should be integrated, not 100% social	36
General/other	10

### Question H5





## Housing

### Comments

69 comments were received relating to question H5 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Prioritise the use of brownfield sites and existing properties before building on green	22
Against building on greenfield sites/AONB	13
Generally for additional lower cost rented housing	11
Against additional housing	7
Affordable/social rented housing should not be out of town – need to be close to services etc.	7
General/other	9

### Total number of votes for each question:

	H1	H2	H3	H4		H5
<b>Yes</b>	504	592	565	251	All of it	66
<b>No</b>	95	23	24	309	Some of it	388
<b>No opinion</b>	41	32	52	68	None of it	176
<b>Totals</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>630</b>

### Other comments made under this priority area

These are in addition to, or wider than, the responses to the questions above and may touch on subjects beyond the Neighbourhood Plan

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Second/holiday homes – 1 for, 16 against	17
Need for better infrastructure/services for new developments	8
Against Vearse Farm	7
Against current Local Plan/government housing targets	7

## Housing

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<b>Topic of comments</b>	<b>No. of comments on this topic</b>
Against mixed use developments	4
General/other	28

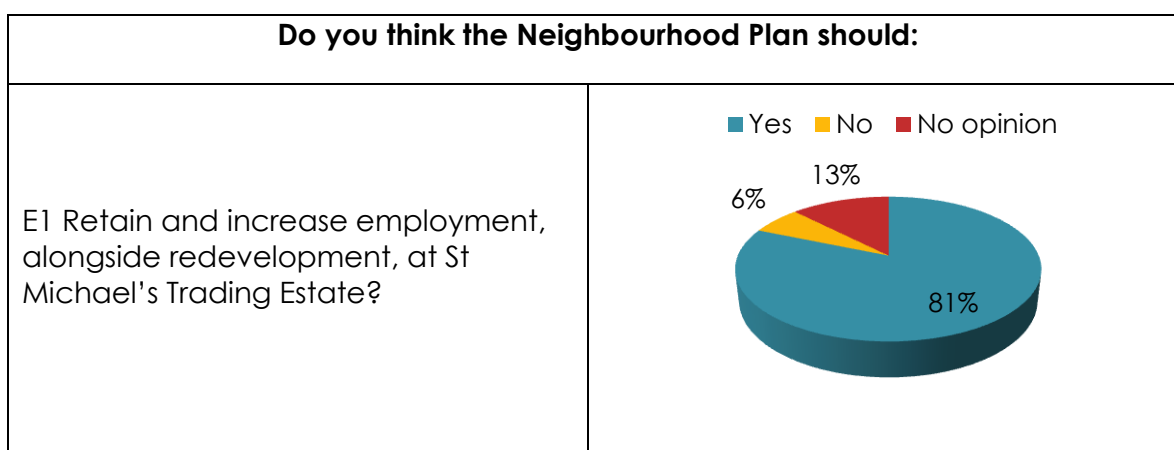
## Economy



### 5.2 Economy

Up to 652 votes and 151 comments were received for the Economy priority. The responses to each question are summarised below:

#### Question E1



#### Comments

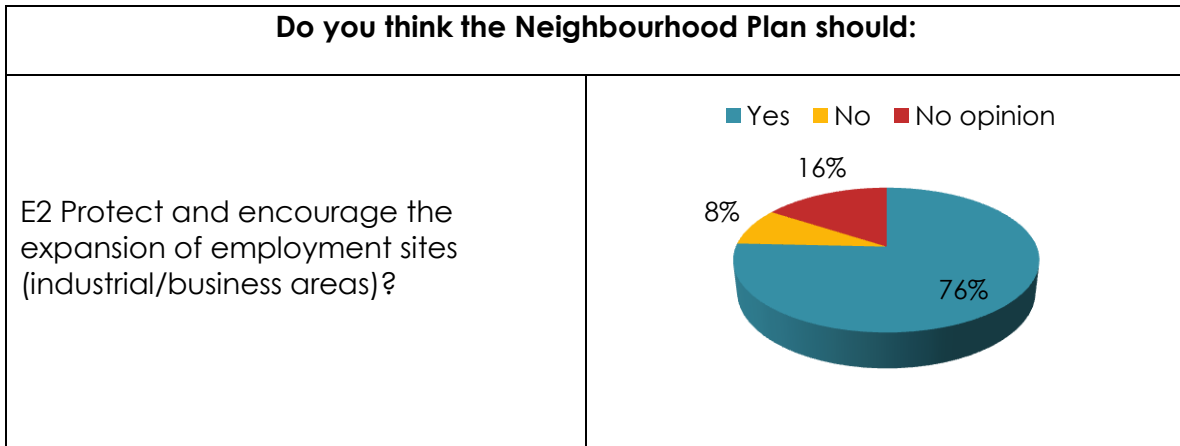
28 comments were received relating to question E1 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Reference to the recent planning decision and Local Plan designation – 4 expressed view about protecting employment	8
Regeneration/tidy of St Michaels is needed	5
Retaining employment on the site is important/concerns about risk to current businesses	5
Need to protect the character of St Michaels	4
Concerns about mixed use development	2

## Economy

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
General/other	4

### Question E2



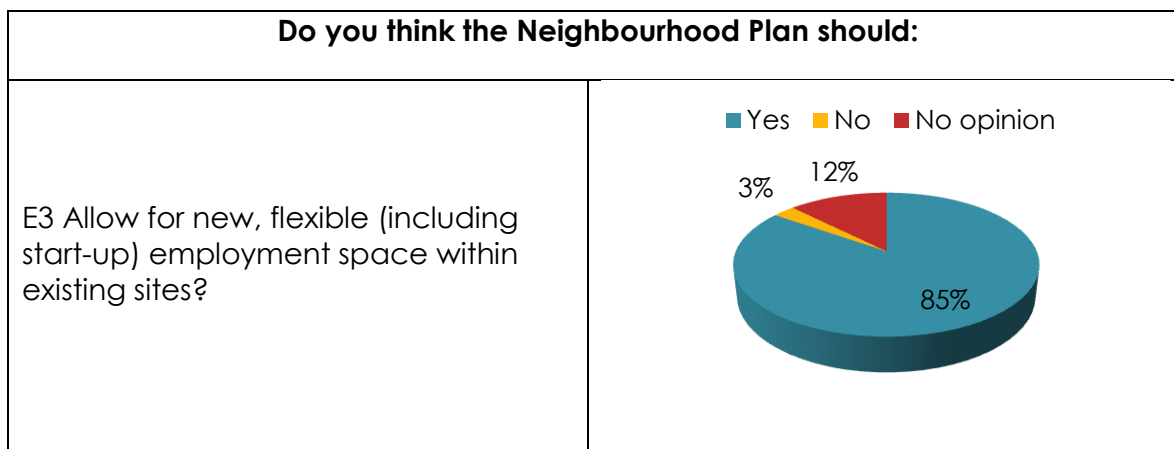
### Comments

31 comments were received relating to question E2 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
There isn't a need for additional business units – should protect existing, but not expand	9
Support for protecting and increasing employment sites	6
Need to balance any expansions with the need to protect countryside/green spaces	5
Existing industrial/business areas to be fully used before expanding or creating new	2
More information about new demand needed	1
General/other	8

## Economy

### Question E3

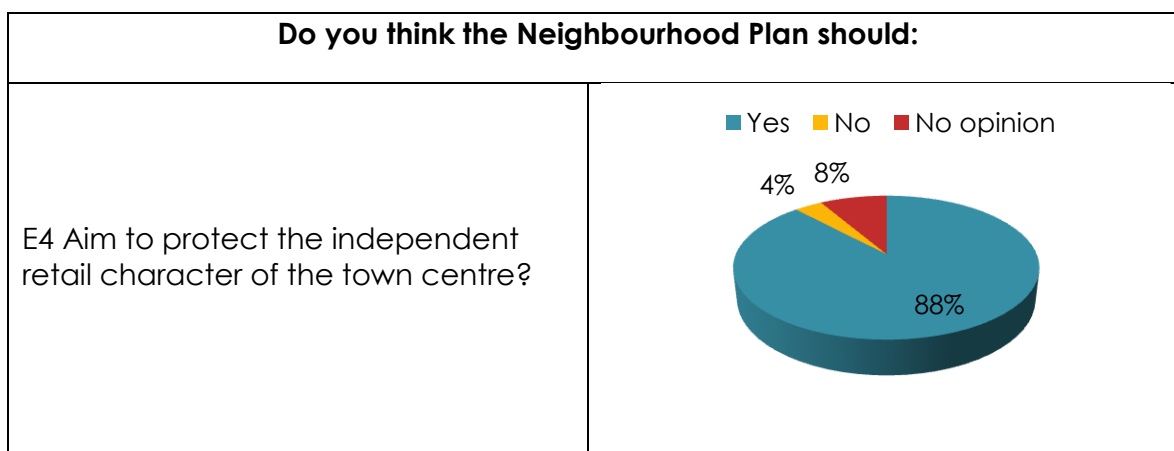


#### Comments

12 comments were received relating to question E3 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
General support for E3	12

### Question E4



## Economy

### Comments

44 comments were received relating to question E4 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Support for the independent shops and character of the town	13
Requests for a balance in the types of shop (not too much of one type, e.g. charity)	9
Additional retail needs – what is currently missing in Bridport	8
Business rates for independents should be reviewed	3
Support for the market	2
General/other	9

### Total number of votes for each question:

	E1	E2	E3	E4
<b>Yes</b>	517	477	544	574
<b>No</b>	40	53	18	23
<b>No opinion</b>	79	100	80	55
<b>Totals</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>652</b>

### Other comments made under this priority area

These are in addition to, or wider than, the responses to the questions above and may touch on subjects beyond the Neighbourhood Plan

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Support for local jobs generally	10
Need for town Wi-Fi	2
General/other	20



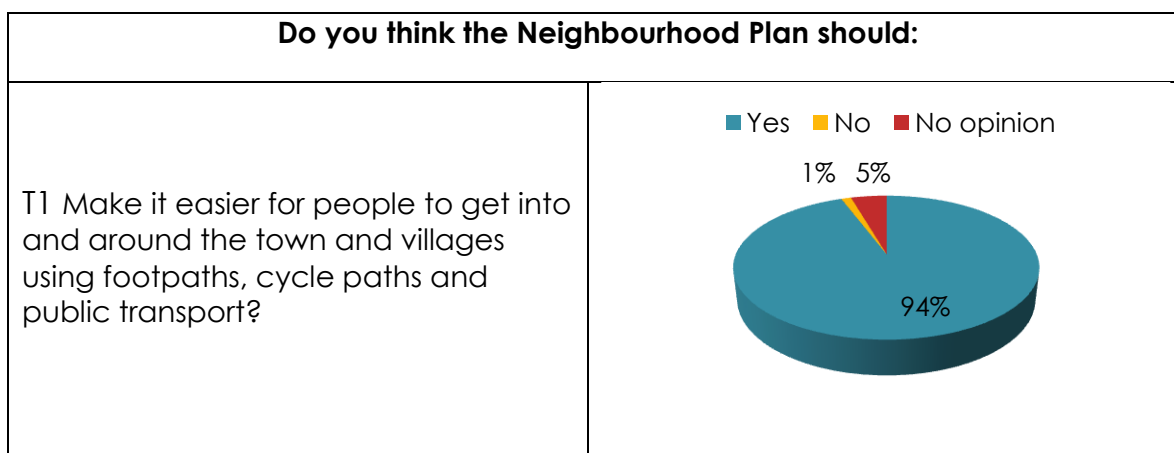
## Transport



### 5.3 Transport

Up to 645 votes and 314 comments were received for the Transport priority. The responses to each question are summarised below:

#### Question T1



#### Comments

109 comments were received relating to question T1 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Bus services need to be protected/improved	34
Improvements to cycle paths are needed	18
Concerns about the impacts of bus service cuts	10
Improvements to footpath maintenance needed	10
Reduce car use	6
Protect and increase number of footpaths	6
Promote bus services to reduce car use	4

## Transport

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Cost of bus travel	4
General/other	13

### Question T2

Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:	
<p>T2 Make sure new development includes adequate off road car parking, that the roads are improved to allow for any increased traffic and have limited speed limits to improve road safety?</p>	<p>■ Yes ■ No ■ No opinion</p> <p>2% 4% 94%</p>

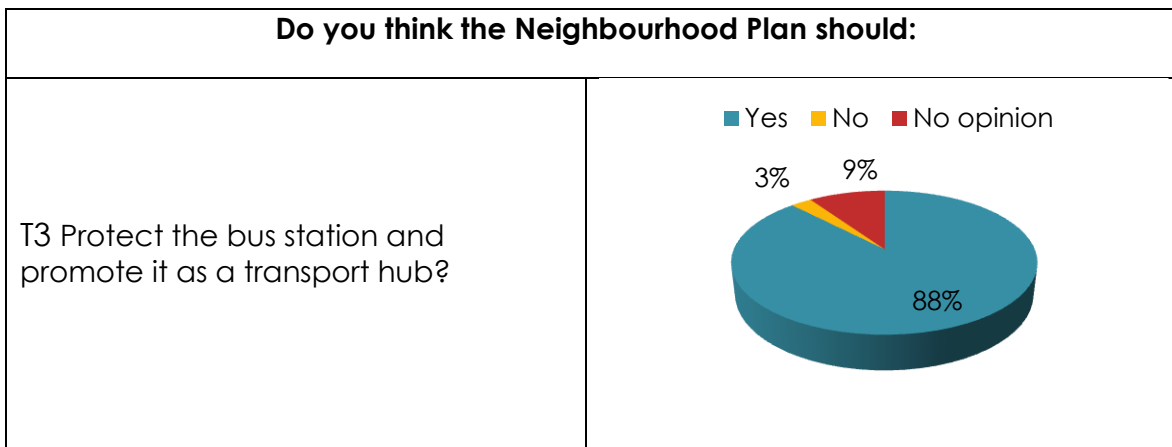
### Comments

65 comments were received relating to question T2 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Speed limits – 5 against a reduction to 20 mph	20
Parking for new development	14
Support pedestrianisation generally/of South Street	8
Against pedestrianisation generally/of South Street	7
Reducing/calming of traffic in town	6
Town Hall junction	4
General/other	6

## Transport

### Question T3

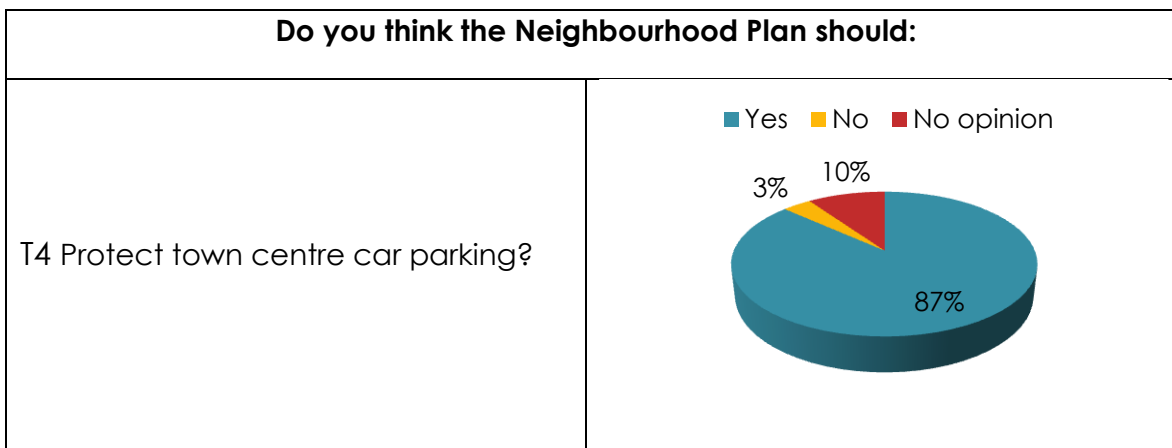


#### Comments

18 comments were received relating to question T3 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Modernisation/improvement of the bus station needed	10
Bus station could be reduced in size	3
General/other	5

### Question T4



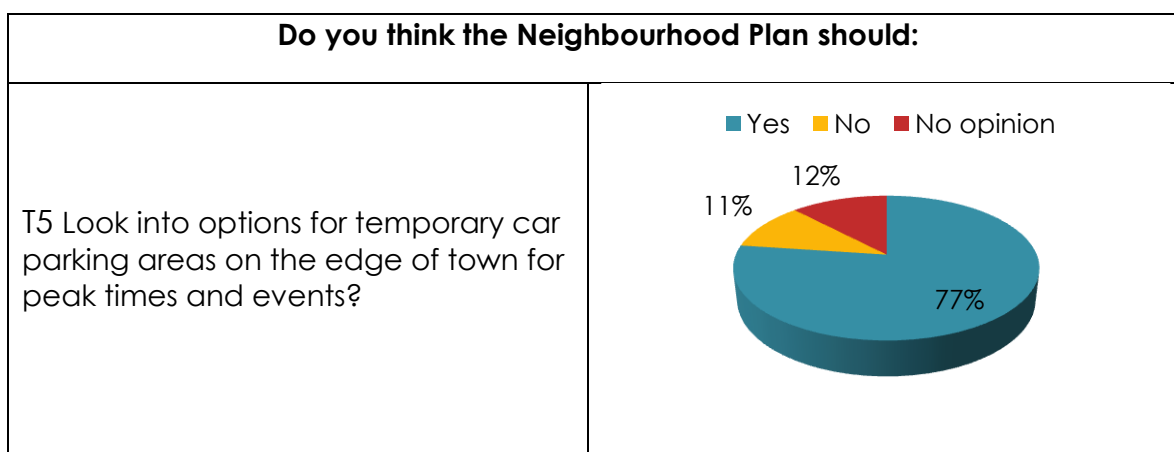
## Transport

### Comments

39 comments were received relating to question T4 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
More/improved town centre car parking needed	13
Suggestions for a multi-storey car park	6
Need to protect existing car parks	5
Car parks encourage car use	4
Car parking should be low/free	2
Additional car parking is not needed	2
General/other	7

### Question T5



### Comments

42 comments were received relating to question T5 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

## Transport

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Against the use of Asker Meadows for car parking	12
Park and Ride needed	12
Sensitivity of using out of town green spaces	6
Promotion of Football Club car park needed	3
Support for edge of town car parking	2
General/other	7

### Total number of votes for each question:

	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
<b>Yes</b>	608	601	566	551	489
<b>No</b>	8	16	17	23	68
<b>No opinion</b>	29	25	62	62	77
<b>Totals</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>634</b>

### Other comments made under this priority area

These are in addition to, or wider than, the responses to the questions above and may touch on subjects beyond the Neighbourhood Plan

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Concerns about the volume of traffic in and around the town	7
Improvements needed to the A35	6
West Bay car parking needs	5
Provision for electric cars	5
Concerns with the overall Transport proposals	3
Support for the overall proposals	2
Commercial vehicle parking	2

## Transport

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Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
General/other	11



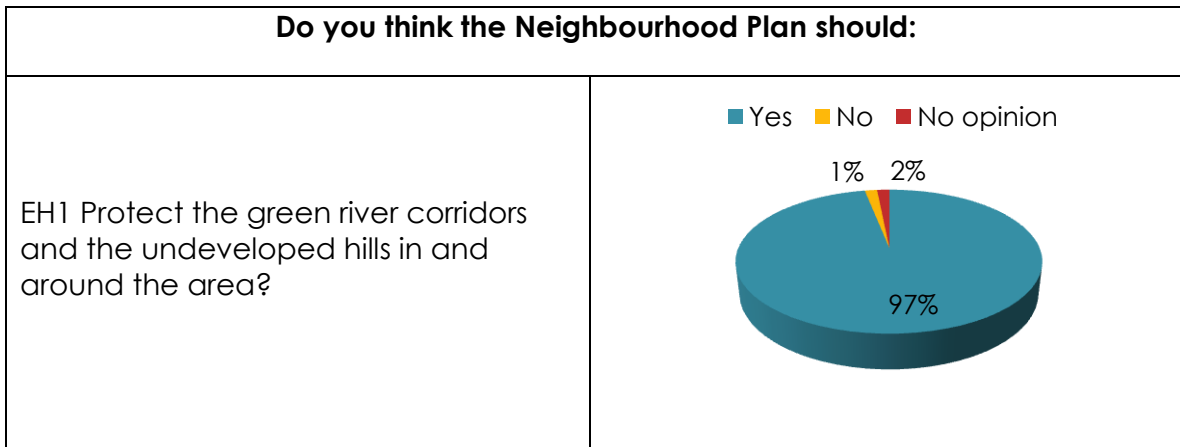
## Environment & Heritage



### 5.4 Environment & Heritage

Up to 647 votes and 121 comments were received for the Environment & Heritage priority. The responses to each question are summarised below:

#### Question EH1



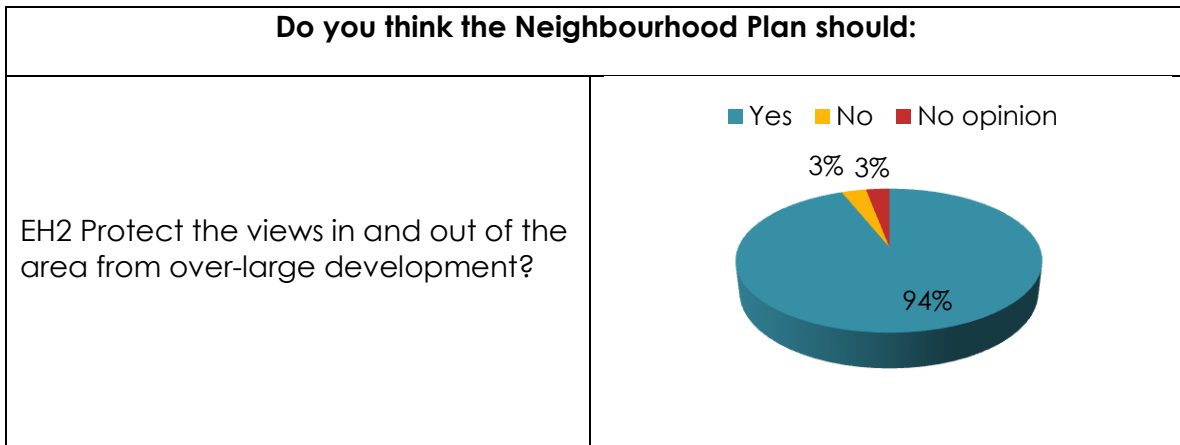
#### Comments

5 comments were received relating to question EH1 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Support for the proposal	4
Green corridors need upkeep	1

## Environment & Heritage

### Question EH2

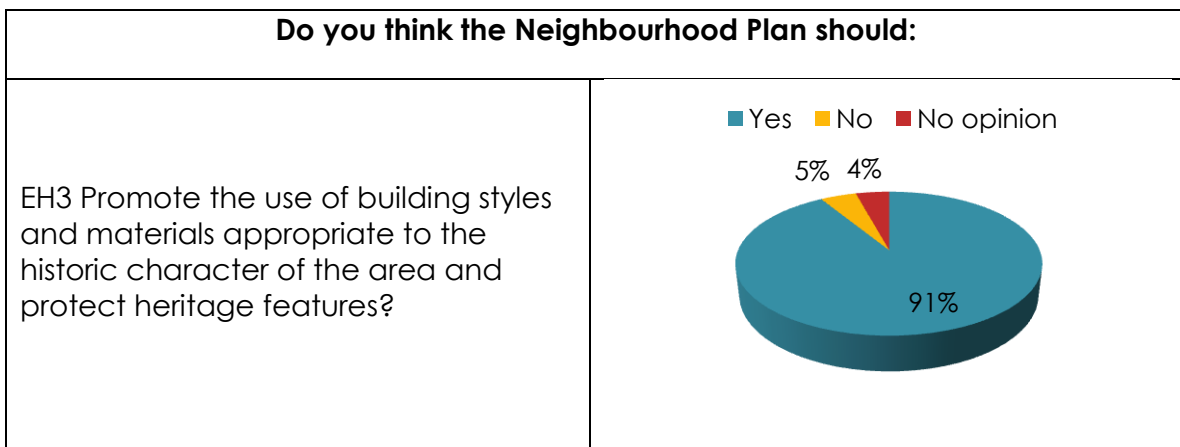


#### Comments

4 comments were received relating to question EH2 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
General support	3
General/other	1

### Question EH3



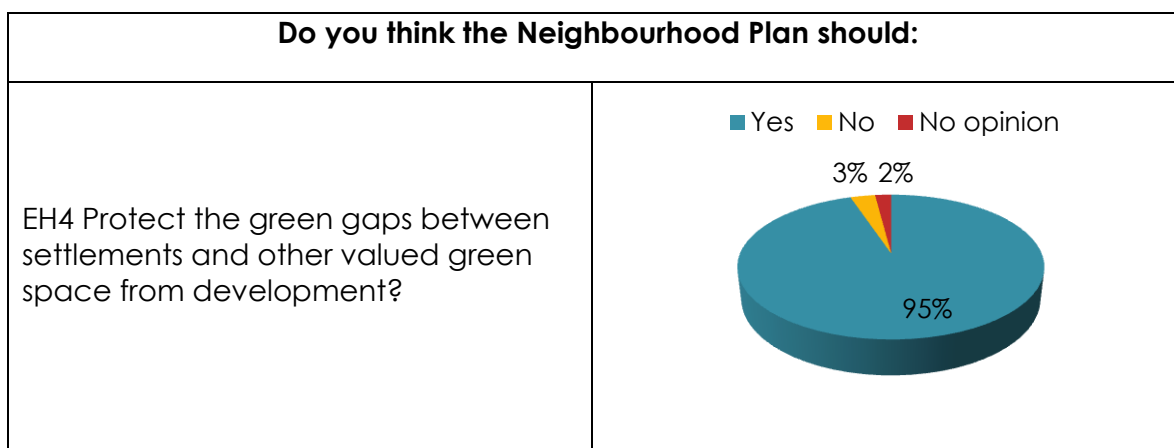
## Environment & Heritage

### Comments

37 comments were received relating to question EH3 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Promoting a balance between heritage and modern development – they can be complimentary	27
The protection of heritage is a priority	8
General/other	2

### Question EH4



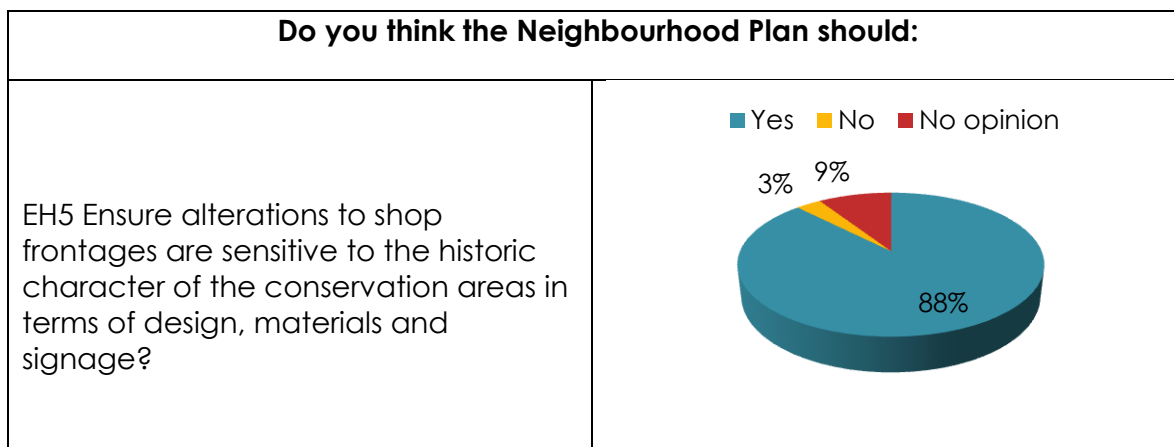
### Comments

20 comments were received relating to question EH4 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Areas identified for protection as valued green spaces – support for protection	12
Support for the protection of green spaces generally	7
Balance with development needs	1

## Environment & Heritage

### Question EH5



#### Comments

11 comments were received relating to question EH5 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Support for greater control over shop frontages/includes contemporary	7
General/other	4

#### Total number of votes for each question:

	EH1	EH2	EH3	EH4	EH5
<b>Yes</b>	627	606	585	608	552
<b>No</b>	10	20	29	20	20
<b>No opinion</b>	10	19	27	13	58
<b>Totals</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>630</b>

#### Other comments made under this priority area

These are in addition to, or wider than, the responses to the questions above and may touch on subjects beyond the Neighbourhood Plan

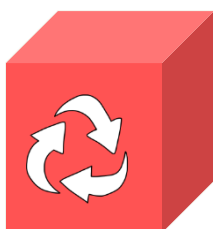
Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Green areas - general	9

## Environment & Heritage

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<b>Topic of comments</b>	<b>No. of comments on this topic</b>
Heritage - general	6
Balance green space protection with the need to provide housing	4
Should not build beyond the development boundary	3
Brownfield sites to be prioritised for development over green	3
General/other	19

## Climate Change



### 5.5 Climate Change

Up to 645 votes and 92 comments were received for the Climate Change priority. The responses to each question are summarised below:

#### Question CC1

Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:									
<p>CC1 Call for increased energy efficiency for new housing and commercial developments, including generating renewable energy where appropriate?</p>	<p>■ Yes ■ No ■ No opinion</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Survey Results for Question CC1</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>84%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No opinion</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	84%	No	3%	No opinion	13%
Response	Percentage								
Yes	84%								
No	3%								
No opinion	13%								

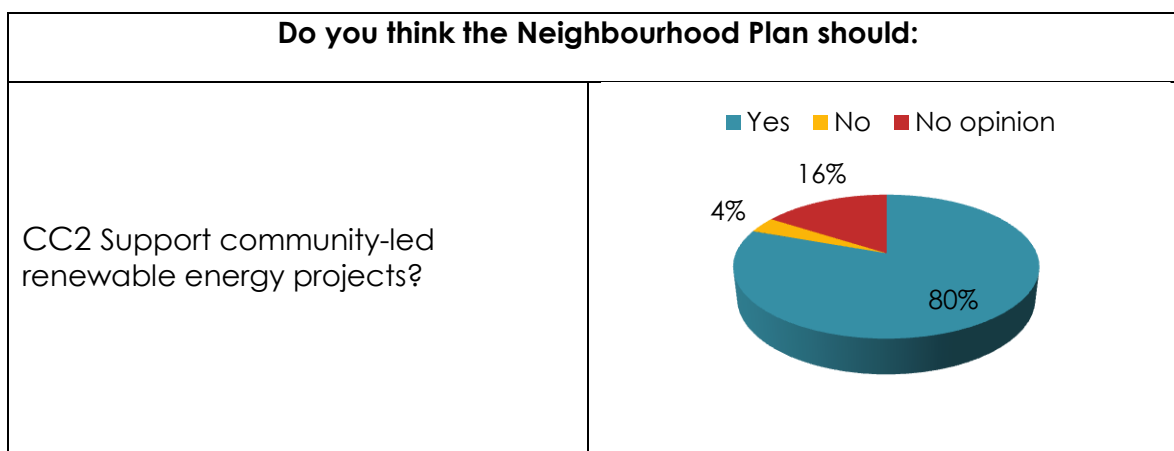
#### Comments

29 comments were received relating to question CC1 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Solar panels – 10 for, 2 against	12
General support for CC1	8
Need to balance CC1 with the cost of installation and running	4
General/other	5

## Climate Change

### Question CC2



#### Comments

24 comments were received relating to question CC2 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Suggestions for types of renewables (8 for, 1 against)	9
Concern for potential impact on sensitive landscape	5
General support for renewables	4
General/other	6

#### Total number of votes for each question:

	CC1	CC2
<b>Yes</b>	538	515
<b>No</b>	22	23
<b>No opinion</b>	85	102
<b>Totals</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>640</b>

#### Other comments made under this priority area

These are in addition to, or wider than, the responses to the questions above and may touch on subjects beyond the Neighbourhood Plan

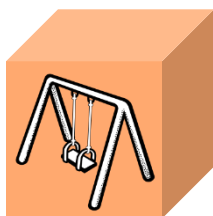
## Climate Change

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<b>Topic of comments</b>	<b>No. of comments on this topic</b>
Climate change measures should be a high priority	10
Suggestions for projects related to reducing carbon footprint	6
Against development on flood plains	5
Reduce plastic/encourage recycling	4
Climate change measures are not a priority	3
General/other	11



## Community Facilities



### 5.6 Community Facilities

Up to 647 votes and 88 comments were received for the Community Facilities priority. The responses to each question are summarised below:

#### Question CF1

Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:									
<p>CF1 Protect and support the expansion of the range of sport and leisure provision in the area, particularly where this helps to boost and not undermine the use of the Leisure Centre?</p>	<p>■ Yes ■ No ■ No opinion</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Survey Results for Question CF1</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>86%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No opinion</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	86%	No	10%	No opinion	4%
Response	Percentage								
Yes	86%								
No	10%								
No opinion	4%								

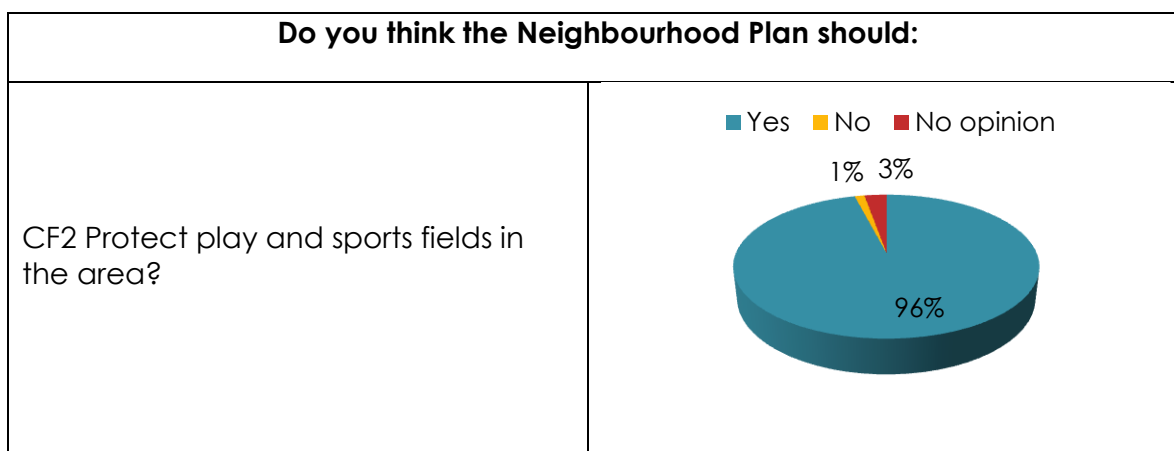
#### Comments

46 comments were received relating to question CF1 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Importance/value of Bridport Leisure Centre	17
Cost of using the Leisure Centre	9
Other leisure facilities needed in the area	8
Use existing facilities fully before considering expansion	4
Expansion needed	3
General support for sport/leisure/healthy lifestyles	2
General/other	3

## Community Facilities

### Question CF2



#### Comments

22 comments were received relating to question CF2 (full responses can be seen in Appendix B):

Topic of comments	No. of comments on this topic
Play areas – improvements or new needed	11
Sport/play areas to be protected	8
Importance of outdoor play/sport areas to the community	2
General/other	1

#### Total number of votes for each question:

	CF1	CF2
<b>Yes</b>	554	620
<b>No</b>	29	8
<b>No opinion</b>	64	18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>646</b>

#### Other comments made under this priority area

These are in addition to, or wider than, the responses to the questions above and may touch on subjects beyond the Neighbourhood Plan

## Community Facilities

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<b>Topic of comments</b>	<b>No. of comments on this topic</b>
Additional facilities/services needed in the area	10
Preserve/add to the allotments	2
Support for the aspirations – community storage and skate area	2
General/other	6

## 6. Other comments received

These are more general comments regarding the emerging plan as a whole and/or the process of the consultation:

One person commented on the importance of aligning with the current Local Plan, which they didn't feel had been clearly achieved at this stage:

- Aside from the controversial Vearse Farm housing allocation, it is not clear that sufficient account has been taken of the content and policies of the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan, adopted in 2014. The Local Plan is a comprehensive and well-produced document, easily accessible online (and the Neighbourhood Plan is required by law to comply with it). In some instances the proposed Neighbourhood Plan policies appear to duplicate or potentially to weaken existing Local Plan policies, e.g. by omission or by less precise wording. It should also be remembered that the Local Plan, like its predecessor, the 2006 Local Plan, was subject to several stages of public consultation, which was reflected in both the Plan policies and the "Vision for Bridport" (p.179 of the 2014 Local Plan).

Four people expressed other criticisms of the process or priorities:

- Being of a 4th generation of this borough, I consider this booklet to be the biggest load of rubbish, I have ever read. It has obviously been dreamt up and who have only lived in this area for a short while. It seems that those people want to make our location similar to what they left, in which case perhaps these folk should return to their home and leave us alone. One only has to look at the harbour at West Bay and the money still being paid out every year because of incorrect decisions made by incomers getting on the local councils. [Unfortunately this person did not respond to any of the questions or provide any other comments to provide an indication of their own views on the priorities].
- General Comment - this is not relevant to the hamlet where I live. Also it was delivered too late to attend the surgeries. [This person did not include where they lived, so this couldn't be checked or addressed].
- Parish Plans remain unjustified - surely one should be completed before thinking about another plan - where is the money coming from? Not the tax payer again!!
- This letter questions, manipulates your answers and encourages only one answer.

Finally, eight people provided the following feedback and thanks:

- Good luck!

- Good work done so far.
- Splendid booklet.
- Thank you for all your hard work!
- Thank you for providing this survey.
- Well done for putting together this questionnaire.
- I can only wish you all the best. You are up against tough opposition ~ Greed.
- Many thanks for all your work in getting this together and for your important aspirations.

## 7. Lessons learned from the consultation

A great deal was learned from this consultation process which will be taken forward and improved upon in good time for the formal (Regulation 14) consultation. This is when the actual draft Neighbourhood Plan will be made available and comments invited from the community, stakeholders and statutory organisations. The aim is, and always will be, to reach as many people as possible and enable them to have their say on the Neighbourhood Plan ideas and priorities.

### *Response rate*

Responses seemed low (665) considering that the aim had been to invite every household to respond. Feedback suggests this could be for a number of reasons:

#### **Issue**

People didn't always feel the need to respond, if they agreed with the proposals in the consultation

Not everyone was aware that they could pull out, complete and return the questionnaire – they just read the information

Due in part to the large number of households as well as the low number of volunteers for the Bridport area, some households were missed in the delivery of leaflets

#### **How to address next time**

We cannot force people to respond, but we can try and encourage people to let us know, perhaps more simply, if they 'agree with all' in the consultation.

An return envelope supplied with the leaflet would help with this, or else surveys are completed with the person present

Whilst Royal Mail would cover a larger area than just the NP area, they would at least be able to make sure every household was delivered to. This would also mean households receiving the leaflet around the same time.

It has been found that the response level was actually higher than experienced by the Local Plan review, which received around 870 responses from across the district (357 of these from the Bridport area).

*Appearance of the leaflet:*

**Issue**

Some viewed the leaflet as 'too council looking'

The deadline for survey responses was inside and on the back of the leaflet, but many still missed this.

*Question style:*

**Issue**

Some people commented that the questions were too leading, although the space for open comments helped with this to some extent (some preferred to give open responses than to vote).

*Issues outside the Neighbourhood Plan remit:*

**Issue**

A lot of responses received were on matters beyond the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan, such as bus services, schools, health and highways matters.

Some respondents did not understand why the Neighbourhood Plan could not challenge the strategic allocation at Vearse Farm.

**How to address next time**

A lot of time was spent considering the appearance of the leaflet, but the criticism is taken on board. A designer will be used for future consultation documents

The date needs to be made much clearer on the front of any consultation document and well publicised throughout the process

**How to address next time**

More open questions can be provided, but on this scale of consultation can make analysis particularly challenging. The style of question will be revisiting to ensure respondents are not being led to provide a particular answer.

**How to address next time**

Clearer information on what the NP can and cannot influence needs to be provided for each priority area.

Again, clearer information will need to be provided on this for the next consultation.

## Appendix A - Questionnaire

### Have your say!

Do you think we are on the right tracks? Please let us know by answering the following questions and returning this questionnaire back to us. You can find a list of drop-off points on the back of this booklet, or you can complete the questionnaire online by going to [www.vision-2030.co.uk](http://www.vision-2030.co.uk)

### Environment & Heritage

		(please tick your answer)		
<b>Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
EH1	Protect the green river corridors and the undeveloped hills in and around the area?			
EH2	Protect the views in and out of the area from over-large development?			
EH3	Promote the use of building styles and materials appropriate to the historic character of the area and protect heritage features?			
EH4	Protect the green gaps between settlements and other valued green space from development?			
EH5	Ensure alterations to shop frontages are sensitive to the historic character of the conservation areas in terms of design, materials and signage?			

Any comments on the Environment & Heritage proposals or aspirations:

### Housing

		(please tick your answer)		
<b>Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
H1	Meet the affordable housing need by prioritising it on all new developments?			
H2	Make sure the type and size of housing built best meets the local need, and that it is well integrated with other developments?			
H3	Require new developments to have high standards of design and sustainability?			
H4	Allocate new sites for development for up to 100% social housing?			



		All of it	Some of it	None of it
H5	Consultation has shown that lower cost rented housing is a high priority for our area. We haven't identified enough suitable sites to meet this need. Do you think we should try and allocate land outside of the existing built up area to accommodate all, some or no affordable housing?			

Any comments on the Housing proposals or aspirations:

### Economy

		(please tick your answer)		
	<b>Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:</b>	Yes	No	No opinion
E1	Retain and increase employment, alongside redevelopment, at St Michael's Trading Estate?			
E2	Protect and encourage the expansion of employment sites (industrial/business areas)?			
E3	Allow for new, flexible (including start-up) employment space within existing sites?			
E4	Aim to protect the independent retail character of the town centre?			

Any comments on the Economy proposals or aspirations:

### Community Facilities

		(please tick your answer)		
	<b>Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:</b>	Yes	No	No opinion
CF1	Protect and support the expansion of the range of sport and leisure provision in the area, particularly where this helps to boost and not undermine the use of the Leisure Centre?			
CF2	Protect play and sports fields in the area?			

Any comments on the Community Facilities proposals or aspirations:

### Transport

		(please tick your answer)		
<b>Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
T1	Make it easier for people to get into and around the town and villages using footpaths, cycle paths and public transport?			
T2	Make sure new development includes adequate off road car parking, that the roads are improved to allow for any increased traffic and have limited speed limits to improve road safety?			
T3	Protect the bus station and promote it as a transport hub?			
T4	Protect town centre car parking?			
T5	Look into options for temporary car parking areas on the edge of town for peak times and events?			

Any comments on the Transport proposals or aspirations:

### Climate Change

		(please tick your answer)		
<b>Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should:</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
CC1	Call for increased energy efficiency for new housing and commercial developments, including generating renewable energy where appropriate?			
CC2	Support community-led renewable energy projects?			

Any comments on the Climate Change proposals or aspirations:

## **Appendix B - Full comments from the consultation**

Available as a separate document

## Appendix C - Breakdown of response rates by question

Question	Votes	% Yes	%No	%No opinion.	Comments
H1 Meet the affordable housing need by prioritising it on all new developments?	640	79	15	6	94
H2 Make sure the type and size of housing built best meets the local need, and that it is well integrated with other developments?	647	91	4	5	5
H3 Require new developments to have high standards of design and sustainability?	641	88	4	8	23
H4 Allocate new sites for development for up to 100% social housing?	628	40	49	11	46
E1 Retain and increase employment, alongside redevelopment, at St Michael's Trading Estate?	636	81	6	13	28
E2 Protect and encourage the expansion of employment sites (industrial/business areas)?	630	76	8	16	31
E3 Allow for new, flexible (including start-up) employment space within existing sites?	642	85	3	12	12
E4 Aim to protect the independent retail character of the town centre?	652	88	4	8	44
T1 Make it easier for people to get into and around the town and villages using footpaths, cycle paths and public transport?	645	94	1	5	109
T2 Make sure new development includes adequate off road car parking, that the roads are improved to allow for any increased traffic and have limited speed limits to improve road safety?	642	94	2	4	65
T3 Protect the bus station and promote it as a transport hub?	645	88	3	9	18
T4 Protect town centre car parking?	636	87	3	10	39
T5 Look into options for temporary car parking areas on the edge of town for peak times and events?	634	77	11	12	42
EH1 Protect the green river corridors and the undeveloped hills in and around the area?	647	97	1	2	5
EH2 Protect the views in and out of the area from over-large development?	645	94	3	3	4

<b>Question</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>% Yes</b>	<b>%No</b>	<b>%No opinion.</b>	<b>Comments</b>
EH3 Promote the use of building styles and materials appropriate to the historic character of the area and protect heritage features?	641	91	5	4	37
EH4 Protect the green gaps between settlements and other valued green space from development?	641	95	3	2	20
EH5 Ensure alterations to shop frontages are sensitive to the historic character of the conservation areas in terms of design, materials and signage?	630	88	3	9	11
CC1 Call for increased energy efficiency for new housing and commercial developments, including generating renewable energy where appropriate?	645	84	3	13	29
CC2 Support community-led renewable energy projects?	640	80	4	16	24
CF1 Protect and support the expansion of the range of sport and leisure provision in the area, particularly where this helps to boost and not undermine the use of the Leisure Centre?	647	86	4	10	46
CF2 Protect play and sports fields in the area?	646	96	1	3	22
		<b>All</b>	<b>Some</b>	<b>None</b>	
H5 Consultation has shown that lower cost rented housing is a high priority for our area. We haven't identified enough suitable sites to meet this need. Do you think we should try and allocate land outside of the existing built up area to accommodate all, some or no affordable housing?	630	10	62	28	69