



News release

19 May 2015

Community questionnaire helps to shape Cranleigh's Neighbourhood Plan

Several hundred people have taken the opportunity to get involved in a consultation that will influence what Cranleigh will be like as place to live and do business in 2030.

Cranleigh received the green light to start preparing a Neighbourhood Plan in the summer of 2013. Once adopted, the Plan will have the power to shape the future development and use of land in the parish. To make sure the Plan reflects people's wishes, working groups made up of local volunteers have been gathering evidence to find out what people see as the main issues for the future of Cranleigh. This information was used to put together the first Neighbourhood Plan community questionnaire, which was launched in March this year.

The results of the questionnaire are now available and show that when asked what they most like about Cranleigh, of those who responded, 60 per cent said the 'village feel'. By contrast, the traffic congestion in the High Street was disliked by nearly 70 per cent of respondents.

The data shows that when leaving Cranleigh by car, many people's journey takes them on the Guildford Road. Two thirds of respondents say they do not currently use a bicycle but 43 per cent state they would make more journeys by bike if the footpaths were upgraded to facilitate pedestrians and cyclists. A slightly higher percentage said that improvements to footpaths would increase the number of times they walked rather than drove to the High Street.

The majority of people appear to be satisfied with services such as gas, sewerage and electricity. Fewer people were satisfied with their broadband connection and mobile phone signal.

Commenting on the findings of the questionnaire Jane O'Leary, Chair of the Cranleigh Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group says: "The results clearly show that people wish to preserve Cranleigh's village feel. There appears to be support for coming up with solutions that will future-proof any new homes such as providing enough car parking spaces for growing families, home office space and homes that can be adapted to meet the needs of older people. These are views that we have consistently heard repeated by the people who visited our roadshow at the Village Hall in March and chatted to us at the various community events we have attended.

For **further information** about this press release contact:

Jane O'Leary, Chair of Cranleigh neighbourhood plan steering group at chair@cranleighnbp.org or on 01483 276100.



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“We are now in the last few weeks of exploring the issues and gathering evidence so if people feel there are questions that we still need to ask, then please do let us know. We will soon be entering a new phase of the consultation which will see us having to think hard about the options we have for resolving the issues.”

The findings of the first community questionnaire and the latest information can be seen online at www.cranleighbhp.org. The second community questionnaire has now closed and it is expected the results will be available in June.

For **further information** about this press release contact:

Jane O’Leary, Chair of Cranleigh neighbourhood plan steering group at chair@cranleighbhp.org or on 01483 276100.