**Kingsley Neighbourhood Plan – First Stage Consultation Report (Dec 2018)**

Introduction

The aim of this first stage consultation was to bring the Neighbourhood Plan process to the attention of the Kingsley community and to gather their views on the development of a plan for the village. The survey also aimed to provide a robust evidence base on which to draft the vision and objectives part of the plan and to identify the key topic areas that the plan to would need to focus on.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group drafted and piloted the survey in June 2018. Several amendments were made following feedback and an electronic version was then put onto the online survey tool, Survey Monkey. Links to this survey were put onto the village’s Facebook page and in the July edition of the local newsletter, Kingsley News.

In addition, 890 paper copies of the survey were distributed with the October 2018 edition of the Kingsley News. An article was also included in this edition urging people to complete the survey and including another link to the Survey Monkey version. The closing date for responses was set as the end of October 2018, giving people around a month to complete their paper versions or a total of 4 months for the online version. Collection boxes were distributed to various key locations around the village (e.g. local shop, church, café) for people to hand in their completed surveys. Several blank survey forms were also left at these locations and several paper surveys were distributed to individual businesses and households not on the Kingsley News distribution list (how many?). A small number of blank surveys were also left in the foyer of Kingsley Community Centre. Reminders were put onto the Kingsley Facebook page in mid-October asking people to respond by the end of the month.

By 31st October, a total of 96 online surveys had been completed and a further 74 paper copies had been collected, making a total of 170 responses (approximately 20% return rate of all Kingsley households). This report presents a summary of the main findings. Full transcripts of questions 4 to 8 are also available on request.

Results

**Q1. Your connection to the Kingsley parish – do you? (choose one)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | % | Number |
| Live in Kingsley | 88.24 | 150 |
| Work in Kingsley | 1.76 | 3 |
| Live & work in Kingsley (including self-employed or home working) | 7.65 | 13 |
| Regularly visit Kingsley but don’t live/work here | 1.18 | 2 |
| None | 0.59 | 1 |
| Other (please specify) | 0.59 | 1 |

Answered: 170 Skipped: 0

**Q2. Would you support the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Kingsley Parish? (choose one)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | % | Number |
| Yes | 81.18 | 138 |
| No | 1.76 | 3 |
| Unsure | 17.06 | 29 |

Answered: 170 Skipped: 0

**Q3. In relation to your connection to Kingsley, please rate the area as a place to live or as a place to work/run a business (choose the one most applicable to you – or complete both if you live and work in Kingsley)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | To live in | To work/run a business |
| Very good | 73.3%  124 | 21%  8 |
| Good | 23.7%  40 | 50%  19 |
| OK | 3.0%  5 | 23.7%  9 |
| Poor | 0%  0 | 2.6%  1 |
| Very poor | 0%  0 | 2.6%  1 |

Answered: 170 Skipped: 0

**Q4. What do you value most about living/working in the parish of Kingsley? (themes mentioned by at least 5 respondents)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Theme | Number |
| Community spirit | 66 |
| Facilities/amenities | 61 |
| Friendly | 49 |
| Rural/semi-rural | 31 |
| Countryside | 27 |
| Activities/things going on | 25 |
| Quiet and peaceful | 24 |
| Close proximity to cities/major transport, etc | 22 |
| Safe/lack of crime | 17 |
| Green/open space | 16 |
| Small compact village | 16 |
| Beautiful/attractive | 9 |
| Family/historical connections | 7 |
| Walking/footpaths | 6 |
| Close to Delamere Forest | 5 |

Answered: 169 Skipped: 1

Many respondents liked living in a rural/semi-rural village with a good community spirit. They felt that the village offered easy access both to local facilities and nearby urban conurbations like Liverpool, Manchester and Chester and major transport links. Local amenities and facilities such as the new Co-op, doctor’s surgery, pub, community centres and churches were very much valued. Many also mentioned having good access to local, high quality countryside such as Delamere Forest. Respondents highlighted that they felt safe living in Kingsley, mentioning that the village was quiet and peaceful with very little crime. It was felt that the people in the village were friendly and sociable and the community was felt to be one which was close-knit.

*Some typical quotes:*

* *“It is located in beautiful countryside and the people are very friendly”*
* *“Relatively small settlement with genuine community 'feel' - environment and open spaces, proximity to larger towns and cities that provide wider range of services and facilities”*
* *“We like the rural atmosphere and close knit community. All age groups are catered for and there is a good social/activity structure should you desire. Excellent access to road/rail links. Good provision of open spaces”*

**Q5. What do you most dislike about the parish of Kingsley?** **(themes mentioned by at least 5 respondents)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Theme | Number |
| Parking | 35 |
| Lack of public transport | 30 |
| Too much complaining/NIMBYS | 25 |
| Too much housing/planning permissions | 24 |
| Amount of traffic | 16 |
| Nothing | 15 |
| Speeding | 14 |
| Poor state of the roads | 12 |
| Lack of facilities | 12 |
| Lack of suitable housing/house prices | 9 |
| Not enough diversity | 8 |
| Heavy vehicles | 7 |

Answered: 167 Skipped: 3

The 2 main elements that respondents did not like related to traffic/transport and housing. Many people referred to parking pressures in the village and inconsiderate driving (such as parking on pavements and speeding). Some respondents also referred to the size and volume of lorries passing through the village and the poor state of the roads. Lack of public transport was an issue cited by many, particularly for young people and those without access to a car.

In terms of housing, a number of people suggested that there wasn’t enough housing stock for single people and young people and for those wishing to downsize. Some respondents felt there had been a ‘rapid and unnecessary’ growth of the village and were against building more houses and the advent of speculative builders. However, others were against ‘rampant NIMBYism’ and felt that the village should be allowed to flourish and grow. A number of people expressed concern about building new houses on green field sites around the village.

A few people thought that the village could have more facilities such as additional shops and another pub. Several people said that there was nothing at all that they disliked about the village.

Some typical quotes:

* *“Parking in the village centre has been an issue particularly with the size of lorries passing through the village”*
* *“Public transport is very limited and almost impossible to get to most places if you do not drive”*
* *“Not enough young families, young couples/singles due to house prices and lack of suitable available housing”*
* *“Too few suitable houses to downsize to”*
* *“Increasing number of new large executive style housing providing little benefit or contribution to the existing housing stock in the village”*

**Q6. What are the main pressures that you think are affecting the parish of Kingsley now and in the future? (themes mentioned by at least 5 respondents)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Theme | Number |
| Too much development | 69 |
| Traffic | 37 |
| Lack of affordable housing | 32 |
| Need for more development | 17 |
| Lack of housing for downsizing | 13 |
| Ageing population | 12 |
| Lack of public transport | 10 |
| Parking | 9 |
| Infrastructure needs | 9 |
| Schools | 6 |

Answered: 166 Skipped: 4

The majority of responses related to future development pressures in the village, particularly further house building spoiling Kingsley’s existing rural character and the potential loss of green belt land. Some people were adamantly against any further development whilst other felt that additional housing was inevitable and necessary. Many expressed concern about rising house prices and the lack of affordability for houses especially for first time buyers and older people looking to downsize. Some people referred to the ageing population and the effect this might have on the village in future (e.g. additional demands on local services, homes to downsize into). Traffic/congestion was also felt to be an existing pressure as well as a future one should further house-building take place. In addition, some people felt that a lack of public transport would have a detrimental effect on the village especially for the elderly and young people and several people thought that pressure would be put onto the village’s current infrastructure should further development take place.

Some typical quotes:

* *“Pressure to develop the Green Belt is inevitable. Some development is inevitable and rightly so, particularly to meet the needs of younger people. It must be consistent with the identified needs of the local community”*
* *“Getting the balance right between providing new housing and preserving the nature of the village”*
* *“An ageing population with reduced opportunities for young families to stay/move into the village because of a lack of affordable housing available to buy”*
* *“The village is described as a service centre, but currently has neither the transport infrastructure (either in actual public transportation links, nor the quality of roads / public footpaths) required to meet the needs of a growing community”*

**Q7. Irrespective of location what do you think makes an area a great place to live and work in? (themes mentioned by at least 5 respondents)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Theme | Number |
| Community/friendliness | 114 |
| Facilities/amenities | 89 |
| Countryside/rural | 37 |
| Things to do/social activities | 29 |
| Good transport links/location | 24 |
| Feeling safe | 22 |
| Peace/tranquillity | 15 |
| Clean/tidy | 13 |
| Housing | 7 |
| Diversity/mix of population | 6 |
| Opportunity for growth | 5 |

Answered: 164 Skipped: 6

This question wasn’t asking specifically what people thought made Kingsley a great place, but rather what people thought made any area a great place to live in. We thought this question might help to identify what people wanted Kingsley to aspire to in the future (to help to create the vision and objectives part of the plan).

Many people felt that a good community was the main priority with a mix of all age groups and where people were friendly, active and neighbourly. Green spaces were highly valued along with good amenities and facilities such as schools, pubs, public transport, local shops and opportunities for recreation. Feeling safe was important along with the tranquillity associated with the countryside. Respondents also thought that easy access to larger communities was important both for work and leisure (e.g. neighbouring towns and cities, airports, motorways). Several people valued a clean and tidy environment and others felt that there should be a diverse local population.

Some typical quotes:

* *“An active and interested community who are involved with local events and take an interest in the upkeep, needs and maintenance of community resources (both human and physical)”*
* *“Rural life within suburban facilities”*
* *“Mix of all ages of people, strong sense of community and things to do locally plus accessibility”*

**Q8. How would you like to describe the parish of Kingsley in the future?** **(themes mentioned by at least 5 respondents)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Theme | Number |
| Remain as a village/as it is now | 51 |
| Friendly/community focused | 48 |
| Amenities/facilities | 25 |
| Thriving/vibrant | 25 |
| Good mix of people/diverse | 21 |
| Housing | 14 |
| Desirable/affluent | 14 |
| Forward thinking/embracing change | 13 |
| Family | 10 |
| Environment/green areas | 9 |
| Safe | 6 |
| Beautiful/idyllic/quiet | 5 |

Answered: 158 Skipped: 12

Respondents would like Kingsley to remain a friendly, vibrant and supportive community. Many respondents felt that the village should remain a small, peaceful place, with no large scale development and little change. However, others felt that Kingsley should embrace growth providing that it was sustainable and enabled the village to retain its own character. It was felt by some that the village needed to build more affordable housing and housing suitable for downsizing into. Many comments related to the village catering for all sections of the community, including the young and old with a good mix of facilities and amenities. It was noted that most people valued living in Kingsley and were generally very positive about its future (using terminology such as wonderful, lovely, beautiful, highly desirable, affluent).

Some typical quotes:

* *“An idyllic rural area that caters for young and old alike and gives opportunities for the less well off as well as those more affluent”*
* *“One that continues to grow and develop but in proportion to itself and in a way that does not impact on its current identity and character”*
* *“Happy, safe and sustainable”*
* *“Much like today but quieter”*

**Q9. Please leave your name and contact details below if you would like to join our mailing list or you would like to join the steering group.**

I would like to join the mailing list 42 people

I am interested in joining the steering group 6 people

Answered: 46 Skipped: 124