

Surfleet Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Analysis Report

Undertaken by Community Lincs

April 2018

A Summary



## **Introduction and Background**

The report relates to analysis of Phase 1, the community wide consultation.

### Client Brief

Community Lincs were asked to:

- Develop and design a residents' questionnaire in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Plan group. Produce hard copy questionnaires and/or online Survey Monkey version.
- Business questionnaire to understand the needs of business development in the future.
- Young people's consultation – working through the local school to identify key development issues of concern for young people.
- Data input and analysis of all consultation exercises.
- Produce a final report of the results.
- Feedback the results of the questionnaire to the Parish via an open event that would also act as a platform to generate ideas for the creation of a vision for the Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Analysis Methodology Quantitative and Qualitative Data Handling**

This analysis is based only on returned questionnaires and does not take into consideration 64% of the surveyed population. Whilst the questionnaire response rate was comparable with similar surveys of this type, no inference can be made that the responses wholly represent the Parish. However the analysis will be used as a guide to Parish opinions in order to shape the vision of the Surfleet Neighbourhood Plan. The final Plan will be subject to Parish approval via a referendum.

### **Residents Questionnaire**

A questionnaire was considered to be the most effective way to reach the whole community giving all members the opportunity to respond in a consistent and measurable way to a range of questions in support of the community consultation process.

The design of the questionnaire was based on the need to incorporate key issues identified by the Steering Group from initial consultation with the community, ensuring that those relevant areas of concern to the community

were addressed. The method of design involved both Community Lincs and the Steering Group drafting and refining the questions to ensure overall size of the questionnaire was appropriate whilst important themes were covered.

### Thematic Headings

1. Our Parish
2. Local Environment
3. Housing
4. Transport and Access
5. Community
6. Business

The community were leafleted ahead of the questionnaire delivery as a means of encouraging engagement.

590 residents' questionnaires (1 per household) were delivered in February/ March 2018 by volunteers from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

219 were returned of which 7 were blank.

**This gives a household response rate of 35.9 %.**

The questionnaire data was inputted to Survey Monkey for analysis independently by Community Lincs.

### Collection of Data Trends

As part of gathering data trends the questionnaire asked an optional question related to the age of responders.

By adopting a cumulative analysis 94% of responders who chose to answer this question (200 responses) were over 45 years of age.

The age breakdown should be a factor when considering the responses made throughout the questionnaire.

### **Business Questionnaire**

The online questionnaire had a broken link and although resolved only one business completed the survey. ***This was a local farmer who felt his business was in an excellent location due to the transport hub in Spalding but has concerns about the poor state of roads in particular the A17 and A16.***

### **Young People's Questionnaire**

Surfleet does not have a secondary school or any social clubs for this age group, and engagement is a challenge. Due to capacity and resources it

was agreed that a short survey would be incorporated into the questionnaire delivered to every household.

The return rate was disappointing but is potentially a reflection of the age breakdown of responders who completed the household questionnaire. When we began the analysis we believed the return rate was much higher but on drilling down to individual responses we were able to ascertain that a number of adults had mistakenly completed this questionnaire. We were only able to identify 11 of the responders as people that had indicated they were in the 11-18 year age group. Of these only 9 completed the questions.

***Responders indicated that they thought Surfleet a safe place to live, valuing the river and the park.***

***6 responders felt that there were not enough activities for young people. Due to the low response rate we cannot draw support for any particular types of activities that would be welcomed. Further engagement with young people would be required.***

### **Engagement with Children from Surfleet Primary School**

As part of this period of community engagement it was important to provide opportunities for younger children to have their say.

Surfleet Primary School welcomed the opportunity to be involved. Through liaison with the schools head teacher it was agreed that Community Lincs would attend school assembly to talk to the children about the Neighbourhood Plan, and generate ideas for their involvement.

The children created a wishing tree on which they attached a wish for improvements in Surfleet, wrote poems and created models.

The report categorises the children's ideas loosely under three main headings:

1. Visual/Green Space Improvements
2. Additional Facilities
3. Other comments

***The children have presented some thoughtful ideas around improving the visual appearance and the green spaces in the parish; along with suggestions that can be interpreted for improving facilities in Glen Park.***

## **Salient Points/Conclusions**

### Our Parish

The consultation wanted to identify responders' views on the parish as a place to live highlighting important features and the length of time those responding to the questions had lived in Surfleet. It was also felt important to ascertain if there were any common factors in why people may be leaving the parish.

***Responders value Surfleet as a safe friendly community with a village feel that has open green spaces and a river as positive features.***

A variety of reasons were given as reasons by those considering to leave the parish with no identifiable common denominator e.g. downsizing, moving nearer to family, noise dust and heavy traffic.

### Environment

The intention was to gain an understanding of how residents viewed the environment in which they live and its importance to them both now and for the future.

***Responders view the protection of local wildlife sites, trees, woodland and green spaces as important. The river as a feature and the character of the parish are also seen as important.***

***Of most concern to responders are dog fouling, litter and fly tipping.***

***There was no definitive support for community energy initiatives although there may be some merit in exploring oil buying clubs and the promotion of existing gas and electricity collective switching sites.***

### Housing

Surfleet has an allocation of 169 new homes over the life of the South East Lincolnshire Plan 2011 - 2036 on sites already identified as primarily for residential development. The consultation wanted to identify responders' views around types of housing and potential housing need in the near future.

***Respondents view green space and the protection and enhancement of the existing natural and historic environment assets as the most important considerations in relation to any future development. Although it is pertinent to point out that the margins between all the considerations listed in the questionnaire were small.***

***There is support for the development of retirement homes, homes to rent for local people and properties with 3 bedrooms or less.***

***Respondents would also like to see new homes have larger gardens than is generally the case on development sites this dovetails with respondents' desire for the protection and enhancement of green space.***

***33 responders indicated that they may have a housing need in the next five years. Leaving the parental home/ living independently were given as the main reasons for this need. Community Lincs have provided the group with contact details for East Midlands Community Housing to explore any potential viability in investigating Community Led Housing as an option for addressing local housing need.***

### Traffic and Access

From the early engagement activities carried out by the Steering Group concerns around roads and traffic were a common issue raised by residents.

A question was formulated to identify and prioritise the most important concerns of respondents.

***Responders view speed of vehicles and road maintenance as the most important issues in the parish.***

***There was little support for a one-way system (highlighted by some residents in earlier engagement activities) to overcome a bottle neck around Station Road.***

### Community

Identify the facilities available and used by the community together with any further development that is considered necessary.

***The most used community facilities are green spaces, the shop and post office.***

***Responders would like to see more dog bins, open spaces for walking and improvements to local dentist/healthcare facilities and schools.***

***A footbridge over the river was also supported by just under a quarter of responders.***

***The least well facilities are the Bus Services including "Call Connect" which 94% of responders never use.***

***Several references were made to the value of the Frasier Rooms and Glen Park.***

## Business

***The majority of responders do not support further business development in the parish.***

***Of those who do support new employment opportunities agriculture and office based employment are favoured.***

## Final Comments

Respondents were invited to make additional comments related to services/facilities. Those comments were categorised under 5 headings and presented in table form:

### **Traffic**

### **Facilities**

### **Housing**

### **Litter**

### **Positive Endorsements**

## Recommendations

Feedback to residents on the main results of the survey should take place as soon as possible using a variety of social media and traditional forms of communication. This should be alongside the event that was held in April.

Once available a summary of the salient points of the South East Lincolnshire Plan should be communicated to the community in particular:

- Excerpts from the vision
- Primary growth locations
- The level and distribution of growth
- What this means for Surfleet in development of the Neighbourhood Plan including compliance with the legislation

It will be important to demonstrate how the development of Surfleet's Neighbourhood Plan can influence positive growth that secures the future of the village through the development of a vision, objectives and policies that have been produced by the community.

The visioning/feedback event was an excellent platform to begin this process. This survey recorded some common opinions on what people value about Surfleet that can assist in the formulation of the vision along with the

feedback postcards provided by attendees at the event on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Ensure the whole community continues to have its say on the evolution of the Neighbourhood Plan; at each stage, the community should be consulted and provided with the opportunity to feedback in a meaningful way.

It may be necessary to invite businesses to complete a hard copy questionnaire that could be collected by members of the group to enable a stronger business voice.

