

**Lymington and Pennington
Neighbourhood Plan:
Survey Report**

October 2023

Introduction

This survey was developed and undertaken by Lymington and Pennington Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The survey aims to build on their work by consulting every resident on the main findings and the proposed policies in the draft plan. The Neighbourhood Plan can be used to:

- Minimise effects of development on the Green Belt
- Influence where new homes and other developments should be built
- Influence the type, design and layout of new developments
- Increase town centre leisure and cultural space to encourage visitors into the Town
- Raise design standards of new development to reinforce local character
- Identify important amenities such as green spaces and ensure they are protected
- Increase provision of smaller business offices / workshops
- Make recommendations on improving the infrastructure of the Town to meet the needs of the growing population e.g. roads, public transport, school places and GP surgeries.

Neighbourhood Planning is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011.

A Neighbourhood Plan must take account of both current development needs and those which are likely to develop in the future. These needs and aspirations will be developed into a planning document which will outline what needs to be developed (housing, facilities and services), where they need to be developed and what form they should take. To do this, it must consider a wide range of issues, such as; wildlife, environmental protection, shops, housing and services and assess how these issues can be balanced against the development needs of the community. A fundamental part of the process is ensuring that the community play a full and detailed part in determining both what is important currently, what will be important moving forwards and in what form any changes need to be delivered.

The results of this survey will be used to inform this process.

Survey methodology and response rate

Methodology

The survey was conducted using a questionnaire consisting of a list of the proposed policies with options to indicate whether there is support for the policy along with the opportunity to comment on each. The survey also covered other aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan, including projects suggesting projects to benefit the community.

Information was gathered by distributing a copies of the survey at the 2 exhibitions held in Lymington and Pennington (30th September and 7th October 2023), surveys were available until the closing date (30th October 2023) from the main reception at Lymington and Pennington Town Council and New Forest District Council reception (Avenue Road). The survey was available online via a link from the Lymington and Pennington Neighbourhood Plan website. This link to the online survey was shared using social media and local advertising companies. Adverts were placed in the Lymington Times leading up and continuing after the Public Exhibitions.

Response rate

A total of 93 questionnaires were completed. Residents were asked to return their forms by 30th October 2023 so that the results could be analysed.

Presentation of the responses percentage breakdowns are provided for each question where it is appropriate for the answer to be made public. These represent the number of responses received in relation to each answer as a proportion of all those responding to that particular question. This may not reflect the total number of responses received to the entire survey. Please note – Not all of the respondents provided answers to all of the questions, therefore the numbers of respondents for each question will not necessarily match the total number of respondents. Similarly, some questions which allowed more than one answer to be provided (i.e. tick all that apply) and again may not tally with the total number of respondents to the survey. In addition, not all percentages will round up to 100.0% due to rounding.

Key Findings

- 76% support the draft vision.
- 82% support the draft objectives
- More than 80% of the respondents supported all the proposed policies with the exception of Policy LP11 (Net Zero Carbon Building Design) with 77% agreeing.
- The two development sites included in the draft plan both had 67% of respondents supporting residential with some development at the sites.
- Support for including the limited area of brownfield at Didgemere Nurseries site as an identified site for housing development, within greenbelt, was mixed with 57% agreeing and 43% against.
- All suggested areas for improvement, using CIL funds or S106 agreements were well supported, with the High Street being the highest at 91% and Priestlands Gyrotory the lowest at 67%
- Other non planning matters ideas were well supported with the highest support at 81% for the Community facilities for younger people and the lowest at 65% for Public realm improvements.

There are a large number of comments received that have been reviewed. This list highlights the comments or relating to each question in particular common or relevant points.

Question 1 & 2 – Do you agree with the draft vision? If not, what could we change or include?

Yes – 76% No – 24% Answered

- Ensure there is a balance of age groups and an economically active population.
- Ensure the NP area is and open and inclusive.
- There needs to be sufficient affordable homes.
- Ensure there are no further retirement properties.
- Road infrastructure in not sufficient for additional housing.
- Improve green infrastructure.
- Concerns over the use of the word 'growing' particularly without increasing infrastructure.
- Improvements to mobile and broadband infrastructure.

Question 3 & 4

Do you agree with the draft objectives? If not, what can we change or include?

Yes - 82% No – 18%

- All the above bullet points.
- Do not build on green belt.
- Protection for the Lymington Lanes and Salt Marshes.

Question 5 & 6 Policy LP1 - Do you agree with this policy? How can we improve the policy?

Yes – 85% No – 18%

- Development should not happen on back garden sites.
- Do not build on green belt.
- Do not build on flood plains.
- Do not lost employment sites on brownfield land.

Question 7 and 8 Policy LP2 - Do you agree with this policy? How can we improve the policy?

Yes – 86% No – 16%

- Disagreement over the definition of the Town Centre area.
- More detail in the report on the High Street.

Question 12 & 13 - Policy LP4 - Do you agree with this policy? How can we improve the policy?

Yes -88% No – 12%

- Allow the change to residential.
- Change the use to commercial/industrial.

Question 17 and 18 – Policy LP6 - Do you agree with this policy? How can we improve the policy?

Yes – 89% No – 11% 85 Answered 85

- Most comments are covered in Appendix one as a separate submission

Question 18 and 19 Policy LP7 - Do you agree with this policy? How can we improve the policy?

Yes – 80% No – 19% 85 Answered 89

- More social affordable housing
- Not enough detail to make the policy viable
- Remove the reference to 3 bedrooms as they are not affordable to young people.

Question 21 and 22 Policy LP10 - Do you agree with this policy? How can we improve the policy?

Yes – 89% No – 10% Answered 86

- See separate Appendix 2 on the Active Travel map which covers comments

Question 23 and 24 Policy LP10 - Do you agree with this policy? How can we improve the policy?

Yes – 77% No 23% Answered 84

- Recycle materials from replacement building as much as possible.
- Policy is too prescriptive at this stage
- Restrictions of this type will limit development/make building costs too high.

Question 25 and 26 Policy LP12 - Do you agree with this policy? How can we improve the policy?

Yes – 84% No – 16% Answered 83

- More emphasis on protecting existing trees.

Question 27 and 28 Local infrastructure improvements. Other suggestions

High Street	91.76%	78
Grove Gardens	74.12%	63
The Waterfront focussing on the Quay	84.71%	72
The Station	84.71%	72
Lymington Town Hall	72.94%	62
Priestlands Gyrotory	67.06%	57
New Street Community/Cultural Area	77.65%	66
	Answered	85

- Bath Road recreation ground.
- Woodside Park

Question 29 and 30 Other Non-planning matters. Other suggestions

Public realm improvement projects	65.85%	54
Nature Recovery and Biodiversity Net Gain improvements	68.29%	56
Active travel improvements for non-car users, including walking and cycling routes, pedestrian and cycle friendly zones and Safe Routes to Schools, including Poulner Schools and other LCWIP type projects	80.49%	66
Improvements to green the urban environment and street scene through tree planting and wildflower and bulb planting on public and private land including roadside verges	80.49%	66
Community facilities for younger people.	81.71%	67
Community bus	70.73%	58
	Answered	82

- Improve telecoms infrastructure