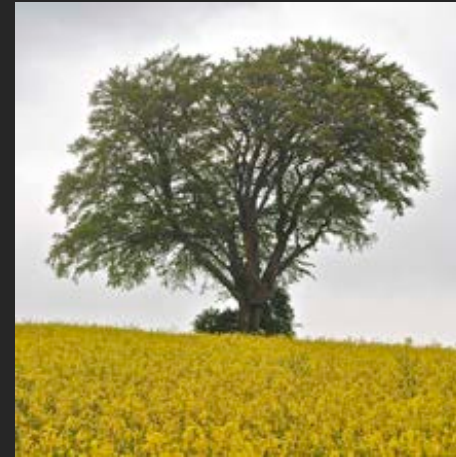


**NEWTON VALENCE**  
VILLAGE PLAN



*Vision 2030*

*"I think the Plan itself is excellent"*

Mark Kemp-Gee  
Councillor, Alton Rural District, Hampshire  
County Council

*"In essence it's a good piece of work because it is based on community evidence through a questionnaire"*

Nick Heasman  
Western Area Manager,  
South Downs National Park Authority

*"First of all, congratulations to you and all the Steering Group on this. A thorough (yet concisely worded) plan"*

John Geoghegan,  
Community Officer  
(Alton and surrounding villages),  
East Hampshire District Council

*"I have been reading the Village Plan and the Action Plan and wanted to congratulate you and your team for all that they have achieved!!*

*I do realise how much time and effort does go into undertaking the consultation, pulling it together and making sense of it all and then, finally, producing the action plan"*

Jo Dixon  
Senior Rural Officer, Action Hampshire

*"You and your team have obviously worked hard to create a very professional looking plan, so congratulations to you all"*

Anne Harrison  
Community Based Regeneration,  
Hampshire County Council

*"With regards to the plan, it is an impressive read"*

Louise Rooks  
Alton Police

## INTRODUCTION

*Vision 2030*

### Welcome to Vision 2030, the Newton Valence Village Plan

The Newton Valence Village Plan (the Plan) is a community-led project prepared from extensive feedback from residents of the village through meetings, presentations and a detailed Questionnaire. The Plan serves several purposes including:

- *highlighting issues that are of importance to the community,*
- *identifying ways in which the issues can be taken forward by the community or external authorities,*
- *strengthening the influence of the village over local developments and policy makers and*
- *demonstrating a commitment to community involvement in decision making.*

The Plan is based on the results of the Questionnaire completed by villagers and the actions at the end of each chapter are those that have been identified by the Steering Group. These are being taken forward in an Action Plan which will be distributed to relevant parties.

Major changes are not called for but the Plan stresses what makes Newton Valence the special place it is, what is valued by our community, the importance of preserving and enhancing both our natural and built environments and the very strong sense of community spirit.

The Plan follows the format from the Questionnaire that was distributed to villagers in March 2014 and addresses actions under eleven headings from the original thirteen as follows:

- *Ambience & Surroundings amalgamated with Conservation & Environment*
- *Business & Employment*
- *Church*
- *Community Activities*
- *Community Communications*
- *Footpaths & Bridleways*
- *Housing & Development*
- *Local Authority Issues*
- *Roads & Lanes amalgamated with Traffic & Transport*
- *Safety & Crime*
- *Utilities*

The Plan provides a vision for the future to 2030. Implementation of the Action Plan will be the responsibility of the Newton Valence

Parish Council (NVPC). However, the Action Plan will also need champions, community involvement, liaison with funding sources and a dialogue with Hampshire County Council (HCC), South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and other agencies such as Hampshire Highways and the Police to ensure that it is implemented to the fullest extent.

This Plan reflects national and local policy, is endorsed by the NVPC and the local Community Forum and has been shared with, and reviewed by, key external stakeholders including HCC, SDNPA, EHDC and Community Action Hampshire (CAH). It seeks to reflect the views of the community of Newton Valence, highlighting what we value today and our vision for the future.

**Please take the time to read the Plan and get involved if you can.**  
**This is a Plan for us all.**

## CONTEXT

In 2008 the Government issued a White Paper, “Communities in Control”, to give people more say over what happens in their local areas. The Localism Act of 2011 took this a step further by enshrining the strategy to empower local communities into law and introduced a new planning tool called “Neighbourhood Plans” which are statutory documents and which, in turn, may be informed by Parish or Village Plans.

The fundamental intention of the Government’s strategy is to enable neighbourhoods like Newton Valence to take greater responsibility for making things happen for the whole community.

Underpinning the above is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which is designed to:

- *look after the natural environment which is essential to wellbeing,*
- *cherish the historic environment including buildings, landscape and villages and*
- *accommodate growth in ways which produce high-quality design to create distinctive and thriving places.*

For Newton Valence, the NPPF is primarily about achieving sustainable development

and making economic, environmental and social progress for current and future generations without damaging or jeopardising the essential character of the village.

The NPPF provides a presumption in favour of sustainable development and now forms the basis for every plan and every decision taken by local government. As such the NPPF will underpin local development strategies and plans.

The parish of Newton Valence is served by two local planning authorities (SDNPA and EHDC) at the district level in addition to HCC, a planning authority in its own right, which has responsibility, inter alia, for roads and flood prevention. The SDNPA delegates some of the planning functions within its jurisdiction to EHDC.

To help manage the future of the area for the next 15 years, EHDC and the SDNPA adopted “The East Hampshire District Local Plan – Joint Core Strategy” in June 2014 which sets out how the Council and Park Authority propose to meet the challenges of land use and spatial development. It addresses the need for employment,

housing, community facilities and other forms of development whilst ensuring that the quality of the natural and built environment is not compromised. The aim of the Joint Core Strategy is to provide the policy framework necessary to ensure that future development in East Hampshire and the National Park will meet the needs of the local population.

Newton Valence is considered open countryside under the Hierarchy of Settlements. In practice this means that, under current planning policy, new dwellings will not generally be considered by the planning authority unless they are on a one for one replacement basis using exactly the same footprint as the building to be replaced. Extensions to existing buildings will be considered provided that the extension is not more than 50% of the original footprint as at April 1974 (or later where relevant).

It is in this context that Newton Valence has the opportunity to influence the quality of life in the village now and for future generations and to ensure a sustainable long term future for all who live in, work in or visit the village.

## METHODOLOGY

*Vision 2030*

In February 2013 the NVPC decided to develop a Village Plan which would:

- *Provide a vision for the future in the 2030 timeframe*
- *Highlight what matters to the community and what should be preserved or enhanced*
- *Highlight issues of concern with suggestions for change or improvement*
- *Identify opportunities to improve the environment and infrastructure*
- *Gauge support for funding methods for community projects*
- *Strengthen influence over local developments*
- *Give policy makers a local perspective in accordance with the Localism Act*

A series of presentations which were open to all residents was held in the Village Hall in March 2013 to launch the process and to seek volunteers to help develop the Plan. Following guidance from EHDC, SDNPA and CAH and having liaised with other local villages, the Plan was activated by distributing a “Three Likes and Three Dislikes” questionnaire to every resident on the Electoral Register as well as children too young to reach Electoral Register eligibility.

A total of 40% of the households within the village responded to the Likes & Dislikes questionnaire by September 2013.

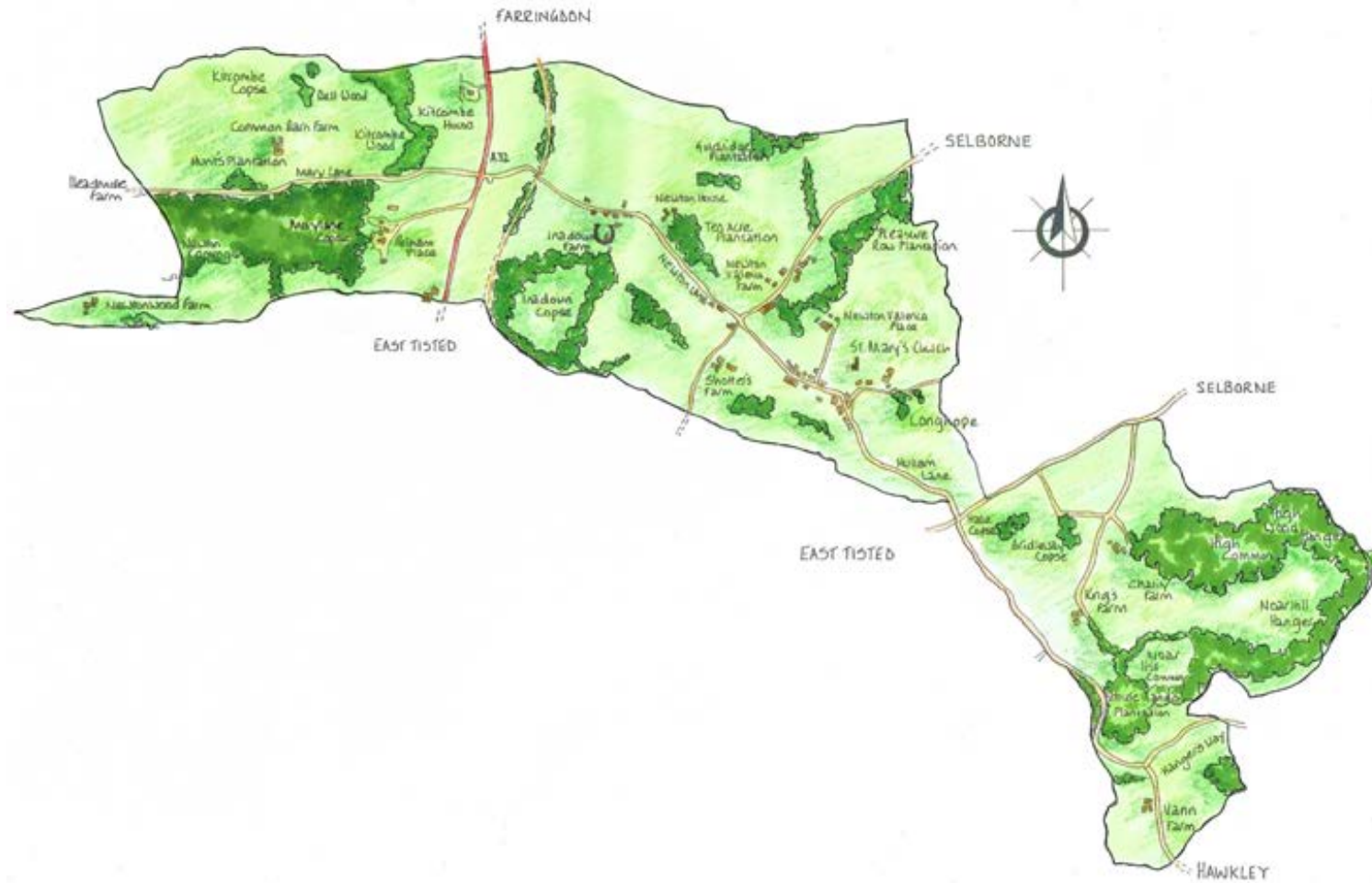
A Steering Group of 12 volunteers, underwritten by a constitution created in compliance with the Community-Led Planning Toolkit, was subsequently formed in October 2013 to ensure that the Newton Valence Village Plan would:

- *Be based on thorough research*
- *Be forward-looking (to 2030) and enduring*
- *Reflect the views of all sections of the community*
- *Identify local features and characteristics which are valued*
- *Identify local problems and opportunities*
- *Spell out how the community wishes to evolve in the future*
- *Include robust, deliverable plans of action to achieve the vision*
- *Be coherent with, and underpinned by, local authority (HCC, SDNPA, EHDC) strategies, policies and plans where appropriate*
- *When complete, be the responsibility of NVPC to implement, monitor and refresh on behalf of the community*

Using the responses to the Likes & Dislikes questionnaire as a baseline for topics, a more detailed Questionnaire with 13 headings was developed by the Steering Group between October 2013 and February 2014. Feedback on the draft questionnaire was invited from HCC, SDNPA, EHDC and CAH. A final version was then printed and distributed to all on the Electoral Register by 31 March 2014 with a two month response period.

A total of 67% of all households in the village responded to the Questionnaire. This is considered by the Steering Group to have been a robust response that provides a strong evidence base for the Village Plan.

Throughout the Plan the reader will encounter charts and tables which provide the detail of the responses received to the questions posed in the Questionnaire.









## THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON VALENCE

The village of Newton Valence lies astride the A32, in the district of East Hampshire and within the South Downs National Park, approximately 5 miles south of Alton. It is an elongated parish stretching east and west, bordered by Selborne Common to the north and to the south by Vann House and Vann Farm situated only a few hundred yards from Hawkey which, in 1316, also formed part of the parish of Newton Valence. To the west, across the A32 and up Mary Lane, the parish boundary extends to Headmore and Newtonwood Farms a few hundred yards from Four Marks. Along the A32 the boundary runs from Farringdon (including Kitcombe Lane) to the north and to Tisted to the south including the Pelham estate. Noar Hill and the houses on its edges are also part of Newton Valence. The

boundary can be seen on the map on page 8.

Newton Valence lies in a rolling chalk and clay landscape. Land use comprises a mixture of pasture and arable with notable areas of woodland which are of importance to nature conservation. Field boundaries are often associated with the sunken lanes which provide the only vehicular access into and out of the village.

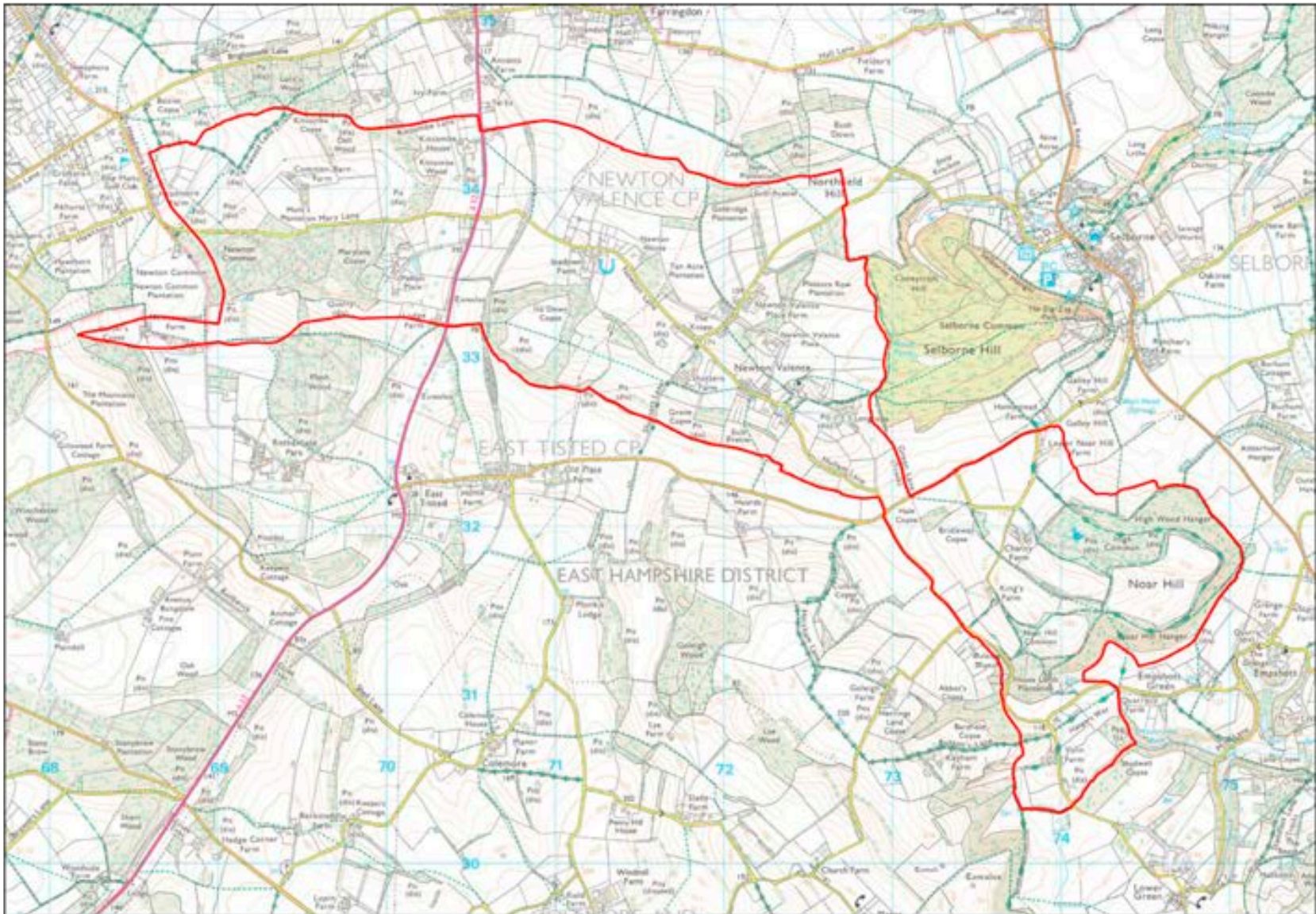
The precise age of the village is uncertain but the village of Niwenton and the church were first mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 and the church yew tree is estimated by the Forestry Commission to be between 1,000 and 1,400 years old leading to a possible earliest date of around 600AD. However, within the village there is evidence of occupation for some 3,000 years and a "mark stone" from the Neolithic period suggesting much earlier settlement of the area.

In 1249 King Henry III made his half-brother William de Valence the Lord of the Manor and the name Newton Valence came into being. Since that date there is a well recorded history of the village.

In more modern times the village had its own school which opened in 1877 but closed in 1927 and is now the Village Hall (a registered charity). The village also had a shop and post office which combined around 1968 in the Old School House when the postmistress died. In turn these entities closed and the Old School House is now a private residence. The only pub in the village, the Horse and Groom dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, was once situated adjacent to the A32 but has since been destroyed by fire. Apart from the Village Hall and the church the village has no other communal buildings. There are currently 86 houses in Newton Valence with 166 adults on the Electoral Roll. The demographics of the



Newton Valence Parish Boundary (not to scale)



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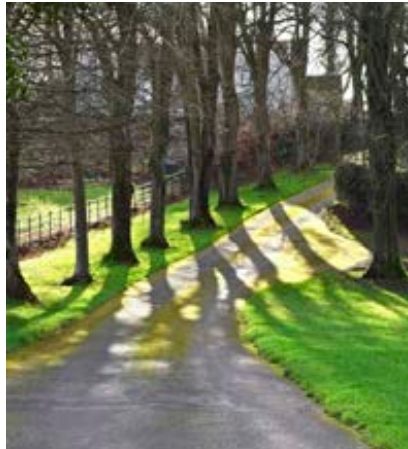
village tend to be cyclical varying from predominantly older residents to influxes of younger families but in July 2014 the age distribution of those responding to the Questionnaire was as follows:

Demographics at July 2014	
Over 70 years (15 respondents)	16%
61-70 (31 respondents)	34%
51-60 years (18 respondents)	20%
41-50 years (21 respondents)	23%
31-40 years (1 respondents)	1%
21-30 years (3 respondents)	3%
16-20 years (3 respondents)	3%

Today Newton Valence is highly valued by residents for its natural rural beauty, the peaceful and tranquil environment, the very strong community spirit and its relatively close proximity to a good road and rail network. Employment opportunities in the village are limited as there is little or no infrastructure but, in line with national trends, there are an increasing number of small businesses being run from homes and home-working in the village.

*"Please do not make the village complicated. Its simplicity is one of its greatest assets and makes all surrounding parishes envious of our easy going way of life"*





*"The lovely views, wildlife, beautiful wild flowers, fields"*

*"Perfect ...we don't want it to change!"*

10

## AMBIENCE, SURROUNDINGS, CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT

### Introduction

The response to the initial Likes & Dislikes questionnaire highlighted the importance of the ambience of the village and surrounding areas together with conservation and environmental considerations.

The key qualities commented upon by residents were: the views, landscape (including Selborne Common and Noar Hill), tranquillity, trees, hedgerows, wildlife, open countryside and walks.

Many respondents made reference to the beauty of the surrounding countryside and in particular the fact that they do not want it to change. The preservation of wildlife and bio-

diversity featured very prominently in the responses and comments. These are evidently issues about which the villagers care passionately and share a strong desire to preserve for future generations.

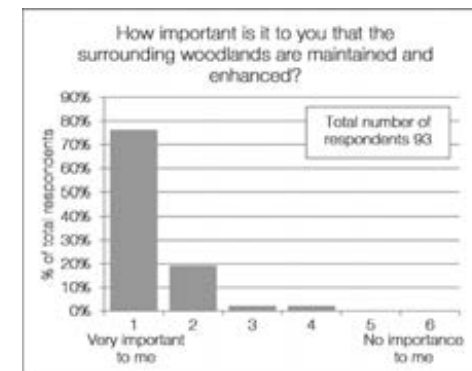
The village is a random collection of houses with large areas of green breaking up the developed area. The diversity of houses is an important part of its character and the maturity of the village and its charm is largely due to its slow evolution. Overall people felt that peacefulness, the landscape and general environment were all important benefits of living in Newton Valence and the surrounding countryside.

### Data

The data has shown that the ambience & surroundings of the village are very important to the residents; people like it as it is and are keen to preserve the status quo.

### Woodlands & Hedgerows

The village of Newton Valence has a great number of mature trees, some of which are already protected by Tree Preservation Orders, and ancient woodland markers and their management and preservation is very



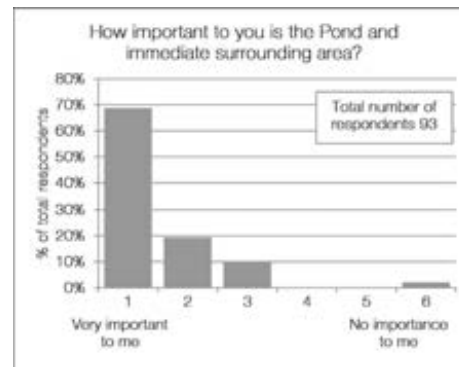


important to almost everyone who responded as the chart clearly indicates. A similarly large majority want the hedgerows to be maintained to provide a living habitat for wildlife.

### The Village Pond

The residents of Newton Valence are very fond of the village pond and the majority would like to see it providing a suitable place for residents and visitors to enjoy whilst at the same time providing a natural habitat for wildlife. However it was generally acknowledged that the combination of recreational use and wildlife habitat can be a tricky balance to achieve.

Most are happy with the pond as it is with the front area kept mown and the rear kept as a natural habitat for wildlife. Generally residents enjoy the fish, ducks and wildlife at the pond but it was also acknowledged by a number of respondents that the presence of fish and ducks make it difficult to create a wildlife



habitat for indigenous species such as frogs, toads and newts. A substantial number of respondents would like to see an additional bench installed somewhere at the pond. The siting of a bench would need careful consideration due to the occasional flooding of the area after extreme rainfall.

### Pond Maintenance

The Pond maintenance is currently co-ordinated by the Pond Committee. The majority of residents are happy with the annual clearing that is carried out by villagers and volunteers from the Winchester Wildlife Trust. However there were a number of comments suggesting that the maintenance could be slightly more sympathetic and focused on the creation of a more natural, "wildlife-friendly" habitat.

The maintenance of the small pond on the other side of the road adjacent to Church Meadow was mentioned by a few with less clarity as to how this should be achieved.

The Pond Committee are seeking consultation with the SDNPA for advice as to how the pond can best be maintained and managed in future to accommodate both wildlife and recreational use. There may be grants available to help

*"A place  
to sit  
and  
ponder"*



with the Pond maintenance and these will be investigated.

### Selborne Common & Noar Hill

Whilst recognising that the management of Selborne Common (the Common) and Noar Hill are not the responsibility of Newton Valence, these two locations do form a significant part of the surrounding landscape. The feedback from the Questionnaire will be passed on to the relevant authorities.

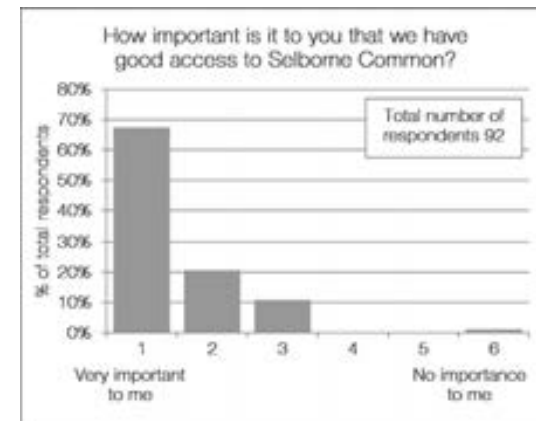
Most respondents were happy with the current management of the Common by the National Trust and of Noar Hill by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. There were a few who were anxious about the cattle on the Common but most were happy with their presence and acknowledge the importance of grazing livestock on this precious landscape.

There were many negative comments about

the condition of the track from Newton Valence to the Common which is difficult to traverse for most of the year except when very dry. It is unclear who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the track and efforts will be made to find out.

There was also some concern about horses causing damage to paths on the Common that are not designated bridleways. These concerns will be passed on to the National Trust with a query as to how this might be remedied. Some horse riders also mentioned that the gates to the Common are difficult to open and close when on horseback.

Additional signage indicating footpaths was mentioned by some residents along with the possibility of the introduction of a designated cycle route across the Common. An educational sign at the Newton Valence end of the Common showing the various footpaths, trails and bridleways together with wildflowers



and wildlife that may be encountered was suggested by a few residents.

The lack of a designated parking area at Noar Hill was raised by a few and the poor condition of the path running up to the hill alongside Charity Farm was also commented on. This

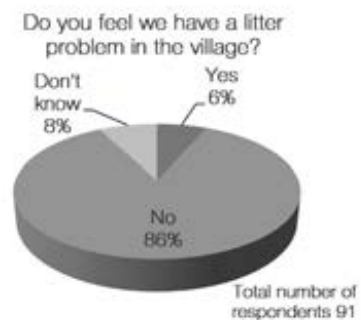




information will be passed onto the Hampshire & Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust.

### Litter

86% of respondents did not think the village had a litter problem as shown in the following chart:



This is echoed by the fact that 78% of respondents would be against the installation of litter bins and 75% would be against the installation of dog-mess bins in the village.

### Allotments

Only a quarter of respondents were in favour of the establishment of allotments in the village suggesting that this is not something to be pursued. Those who commented stated that most gardens in the village have sufficient space for growing vegetables should the owners wish to do so.

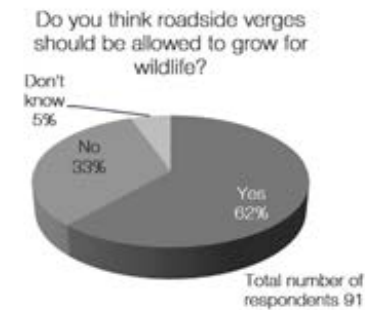
### Bonfires

There were a couple of comments about bonfire lighting noting that the wind direction and time of day should be taken into account when lighting fires that may impact upon neighbours.

### Roadside Verges

There was strong support from almost two thirds of respondents for allowing road verges to grow to support wildlife although exceptions were noted where the cutting back of verges is vital for road safety. Specific examples are the junction of the A32 and

*"In my experience litter bins encourage more litter"*





Newton Lane and the bottom of Hullam Lane where it meets the East Tisted road where vegetation needs to be cut back on a regular basis to preserve lines of sight.

*"In general the verges do not need to be cut back as they provide a wonderful wildlife sanctuary  
.....but certain areas where traffic sight lines are necessary should be cut to provide the unrestricted view"*

#### Light Pollution

A substantial majority of respondents wish to keep the village free from light pollution and do not want to see the introduction of street lights as shown in the chart below.

*"Excessive outside security lighting is endangering nocturnal wildlife"*





#### **Actions**

- Pond - feedback and comments will be passed on to the Pond Committee with contact information at SDNPA for advice and availability of funding or grants.
- Selborne Common - feedback to be passed on to the National Trust.
- Noar Hill - feedback to be passed on to Hampshire & Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust.
- Verges - identify the verges and defined areas that cause a road safety hazard in order to ensure they are regularly maintained to clear sight lines.
- Light Pollution - the Parish Council will monitor all future planning applications to raise awareness of the SDNP dark skies initiative

*"Studies have shown birds' breeding patterns are adversely affected by light pollution"*





*"The ability to have a variety of trades within the community each bringing their own skills and knowledge enhances village life"*

## BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT Introduction

Over the past fifty years the village has evolved from a traditional farming community with the farm at the centre of village life, both as employer and landlord, to a much more diverse population with most residents having no direct connection with the farming business.

Although the majority of residents work outside the village, there has been an increase in the numbers working from home in recent years supported by improvements in information technology and internet access. There has also been an increase in the number of residents who are self-employed and running small businesses from home.

Newton Valence Farm remains the largest business in the community, and continues to evolve, with the recent change from mixed

dairy and arable to purely arable, and the expansion of the riding stables, holiday lets and shoot.

The challenge for the community in the future is the accommodation of changing business needs and priorities while preserving the special character and ambience of the village and its surroundings.

### Data

The responses to the questions on businesses and employment reflect a wide range of opinions and views, with strong feelings coming through in many of the comments.

### Local Business and Employment Opportunities

There was a wide spread of views on the importance of having businesses located in the village, with an overall majority of 55% scoring



this as either 1 (very important), 2 or 3. However, it should be noted that 17% gave it no importance at all and only 13% felt that it was very important, with the majority of responses in the middle range. The spread of responses is illustrated in the chart above.



A similar spread of views is seen in the responses on the availability of employment opportunities within the community, with approximately half of the respondents feeling this had some degree of importance, (giving this a score of 1, 2 or 3), and a number commenting on the necessity of keeping the

village 'alive' through a range of business and employment activities.

### Interaction with the Community

Overall, 58% of respondents felt that the businesses currently located in the village showed consideration to local residents. However there were a significant number of comments expressing strong feelings about certain aspects of business activity. 42% of respondents made a comment on this subject, of which 77% voiced some level of concern. One common concern was the speed of farm tractors on the road and resultant road safety issues for walkers, horses, riders, cyclists and other drivers. It was recognised that farm vehicles are now often driven by contractors who have no local links with residents and are often under pressure to complete a job as quickly as possible.

There were also a number of comments about the amount of mud that is sometimes generated on the roads as a result of farm activity, particularly in the winter months and the impact of this on road surfaces and other road users.

### Impact on Infrastructure

Most of the respondents were in agreement about the ability of the local infrastructure to handle business activity, with 80% feeling that the roads are coping with the current level of activity. However the comments make it very clear that most respondents feel that the roads would not be able to accommodate any further increase in size or volume of traffic. The high number of comments received on this issue indicates the significant strength of feeling in the village about it. The preservation of the village lanes is another key theme in the comments, with

*"On occasion the speed of some agricultural vehicles (contractors) can be frightening – especially during busy periods when speed of completion of a job is necessary"*





*"Country roads were not made with heavy duty use in mind, therefore there has been major wear and tear over the years"*

wear and tear and gradual erosion of the edges of lanes and banks by HGVs and large commercial and agricultural vehicles causing concern to many. The erosion of the tarmac edges of the lanes is caused to a great extent by rainfall running down the hills and the erosion of the banks is caused by both rainfall and vehicles.

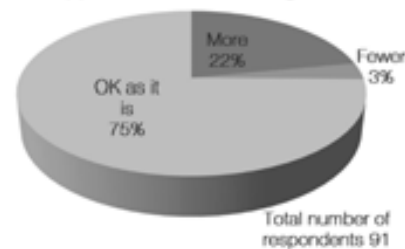
It is also noted that traffic has increased substantially over the past few years, with satellite navigation systems being held partially responsible.

### Looking to the future

75% of respondents felt that the level of business and employment within the village was fine as it is, with just over a fifth wanting to see more business and employment.

The comments received suggest that more employment opportunities for the young

Would you like to see more or fewer businesses and employment opportunities in the village?



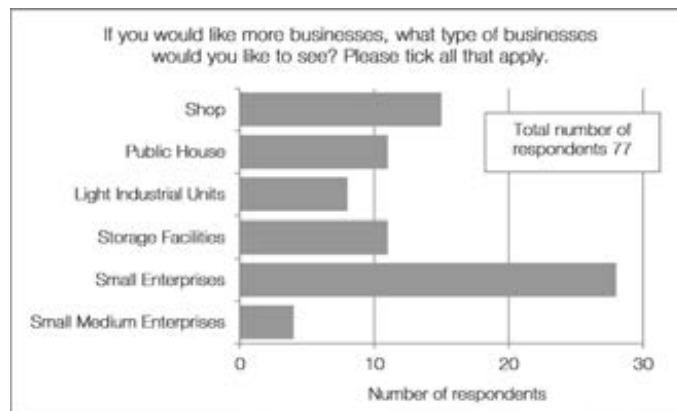
people in the village would be welcomed. However, a number of respondents commented that an increase in local businesses would not automatically mean an increase in employment for local residents.

Those wanting to see more businesses and employment were asked to select types of business activity from a range of six options. There was a broad spread of answers with the

most popular choice being small enterprises followed by a village shop. However, a number of respondents felt that a shop would not be financially viable in such a small community. Many of the comments expressed concern for the pressures on the infrastructure and the increase in HGV traffic arising from any new light industrial units or storage facilities.

The comments also made reference to the desirability of locating any new businesses in existing buildings and there was general consensus that there should not be any new building for business purposes on greenfield sites in the village. Additionally there were a number of requests for a summary of businesses and trades operating in the village as residents would like to support them where possible.

The need for faster broadband and mobile communication to support home working was a common theme.



*"Not suitable for business on a large scale – few facilities to cope with such"*

#### Actions

- Newton Valence Farm to consult village on any business development proposals
- Survey of residents views on any new business development proposals
- Provide a village directory listing local businesses and trades

*"We don't want big lorries coming up the small roads – transit vans are just ok"*









## CHURCH Introduction

There is record of a church in Newton Valence in the Domesday Book of 1086. The present building's earliest features date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century with some other parts, such as the great arch at the west end opening into the bell tower, being from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Alterations to the church last took place in 1812-13 and again in 1871. There are five bells in the belfry, three of them ancient and two from 1871. The Parish Registers contain entries going back to 1538. Outside the church is a yew tree which is thought to be between 1,000 and 1,400 years old. The lych gate at the entrance to the churchyard dates from 1886.

Whilst the regular worshipping community is made up of fewer than 20 people, most other residents feel some affinity for the church as evidenced by the attendance at services at

Christmas and Easter as well as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Given that, in terms of community buildings, the village only has the Village Hall and the church, it was felt that the views of residents on the current use of the church and ideas for sustaining it into the future should be sought.

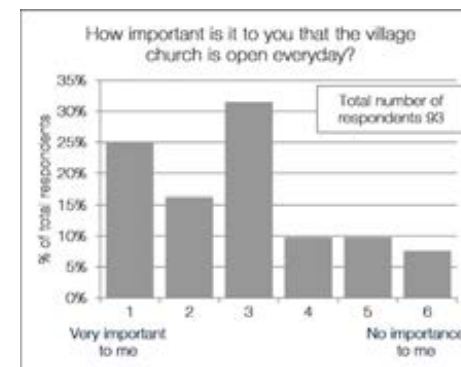
## Data

The responses to the questions on the fabric of the church and churchyard reflect a broad consensus on the importance of the church to the village with a more mixed view of the current range of services provided. Given the small congregation, it is noticeable that there were many responding "Not Applicable" to the questions relating to services, but residents clearly wanted to express their views about the church as a centrepiece of the village fabric.

## Church opening hours

There was an overall majority of 73% feeling that having the church open every day is important to them (scores of 1, 2 or 3) compared with 27% for whom it was less important (scores of 4, 5 or 6). It is also

*"The intimate setting of a traditional church"*



21

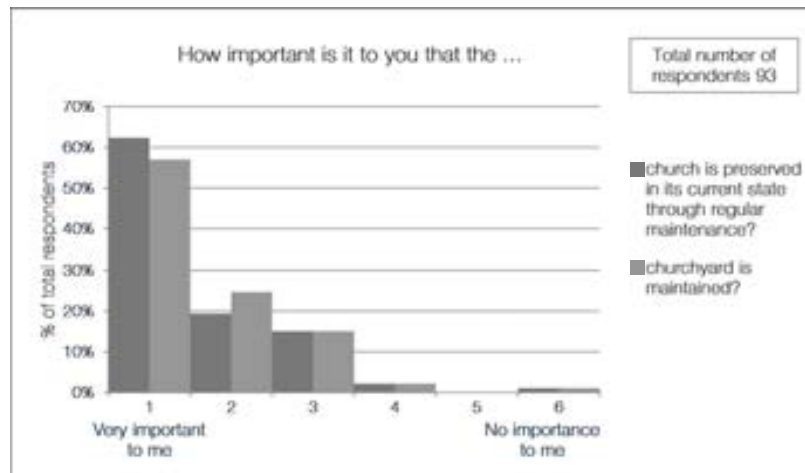


*"Although I rarely use the church I value the part it plays in the village."*

noteworthy that a lot of walkers and other visitors comment in the Visitors' Book how much they appreciate the fact that the church is open every day. The spread of responses is illustrated in the chart on page 21.

### Church preservation and churchyard maintenance

A more significant pattern of support for the church is seen in the responses to the importance of the church being preserved in its current state through regular maintenance and the churchyard being maintained as illustrated in the chart to the right:



*"I am not a churchgoer but value the church as an important part of the village. We would all be poorer if the church were to close"*





## Services

The Questionnaire asked how residents felt about the mix of services; Holy Communion, Matins and the Family/Pet services designed to encourage younger children and their parents to worship. As the regular congregation is

fewer than 20 it is only to be expected that there were a large percentage of "Not Applicable" and "Don't Know" responses to this set of questions as shown below:

With regard to the different church services, do you like...				
	Yes	No	Don't know	Not applicable
Holy Communion services? (91 respondents)	35%	3%	15%	46%
Matins services? (91 respondents)	29%	9%	18%	45%
Family or pet services geared towards younger children? (91 respondents)	59%	2%	8%	31%

## The Future

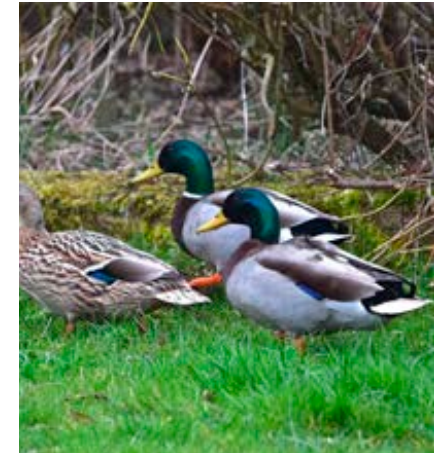
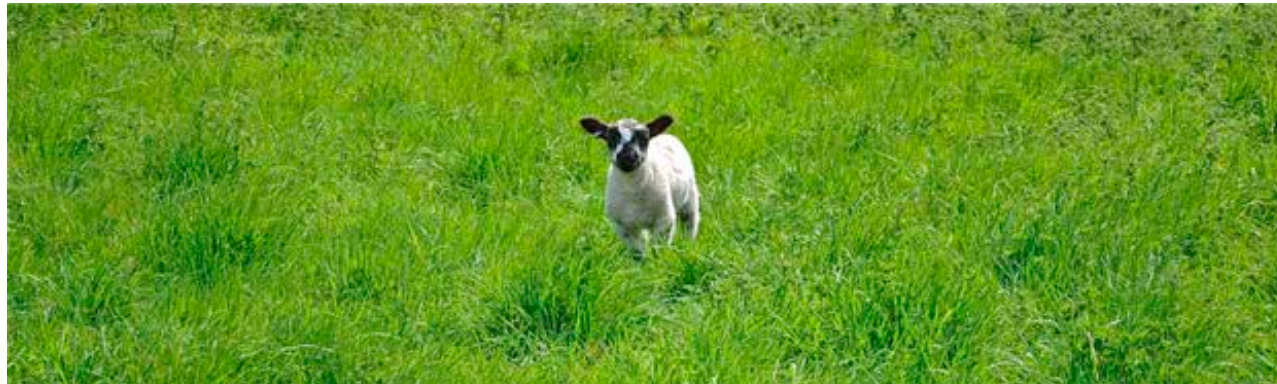
It is clear from general comments received that the current regular worshippers are worried that the absence of more and younger church-goers threatens the long-term future of the church itself. It is recognised that popular Family/Pet services are designed to encourage younger families to come to the church but this in itself does not guarantee that the church can be sustained in the village.

*"We need to support it or we will lose it. It is a vital heart of the village and not only for weddings, funerals and christenings"*

## Actions

- Pass data and comments to the Parochial Church Council (PCC).





## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES

### Introduction

It is widely recognised by residents and visitors alike that the strong community spirit in Newton Valence is exceptional, so this section of the Questionnaire aimed to find out what people think about the activities and facilities at present and how they would envisage them in the future.

The key aspects of this section comprise: community spirit, Village Hall amenities and activities, Friday evening bar and social events run by Newton Valence Sports & Social Club (NVSSC), how the Village Hall could be used in the future to support the community, amenity land within the village for communal use, funding and provision for the elderly residents.

The Village Hall (officially known as The Social Centre and founded as a Charity by a Deed in May 1947) is housed in the Old School which closed in 1927. The Hall was used sporadically by organisations such as the Women's Institute but fell into disrepair and with no income its sustainability was in jeopardy. Following the formation of the NVSSC in the early 1990s, the Hall underwent an extensive renovation undertaken with the aid of grants and donations from villagers. The Charity Trustees delegate the upkeep and running costs of the Village Hall to NVSSC. Further refurbishment work is planned in 2015 and 2016 with fundraising (including grants) having started.

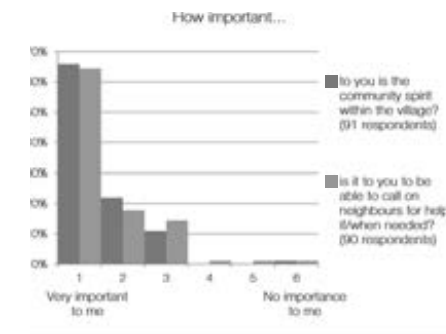
### Data

#### Community Spirit

The data shows that the majority of Newton Valence residents feel that there is a strong

community spirit in the village and that it is important to be able to call on neighbours help if needed.

Whilst people come and go over the years, the sense of community continues and thrives.



*"Village community spirit is invaluable – really unique. A very special quality of life in Newton Valence"*





*"All are welcome!  
Sense of community spirit and enjoyment!"*

*"The interior needs a make-over!"*

The Village Hall and NVSSC both play an important role in helping to create and sustain this community spirit.

### Village Hall activities

The Village Hall is seen as the central hub of the village fostering community spirit and providing an informal gathering place for contact and communication.

NVSSC is a membership club open to the residents of the village. Members pay a nominal annual subscription that entitles them to attend any of the events held by NVSSC. The Club runs a regular Friday evening bar at the Hall which is manned by volunteers. Most residents are satisfied with the current opening hours of 7.30-11pm every Friday and one Sunday lunchtime in June, July and August. In addition the NVSSC run other special events throughout the year which are seen as friendly



and welcoming for all the community, village visitors, families and children. People particularly enjoy the annual Quiz Night, special events, summer barbecues and local beer!

*"The garden is exceptional"*

### Future events

Residents were very forthcoming with ideas for future events at the Village Hall including more summer events, music events and charity fund raising events, coffee mornings, a monthly lunch club for older residents, activities for mums with young children, gardening club, film club, IT club, bridge/poker evenings, wine/beer tasting evenings, sporting events, screening major sporting events, lectures/guest speakers, visits from local authorities, children's clubs/youth groups, art exhibitions, cookery demos, yoga/Pilates classes, village markets and jumble sales.

### Village Hall amenities, garden and decor

There were many compliments about the garden at the Village Hall which is seen as a major asset. Many respondents passed their thanks to the volunteers for all their hard work



in creating and maintaining the garden to provide a relaxing yet functional outdoor space. It has been a few years since the Village Hall was decorated and there were a significant number of people suggesting that renovation was needed. The Village Hall also is available as a low cost venue to hire for private events and the furniture and equipment can be borrowed by residents for private functions. A library has been a recent addition to the Village Hall facilities and is used and enjoyed by many.

A few would like to ensure that the Village Hall is as accessible as possible for the elderly and disabled. The main pathway to the hall was resurfaced in 2013 with special matting for wheelchair access and future renovations will further improve accessibility.

*"A few armchairs for those looking for a snug rather than a gossip at the Bar"*

### Additional costs

Residents were asked how they would be prepared to fund further developments of the Village Hall, extended opening hours or additional community events and the responses are summarised in the table below.

*"Friendly and informal gatherings"*

Would you be prepared to fund further developments...				
	Yes	No	Don't know	Not applicable
By fund raising? (65 respondents)	57%	8%	9%	26%
By increasing the membership fee? (67 respondents)	51%	18%	6%	25%
By having an increase in the village contribution to the Council Tax (Precept)? (69 respondents)	42%	25%	10%	23%

More than half of respondents would be prepared to fund-raise or pay a larger NVSSC membership fee to raise money for such developments but a smaller proportion (42%) would be prepared to see an increase in their Council Tax contribution (Precept) for these purposes. In addition to the data, comments demonstrate enthusiasm for the running of fund raising events, one-off donations,

contributions in kind from residents, sponsorship by local businesses and the investigation of grants or funding for community projects.

*"A Film Club...I would be very happy to make this happen"*

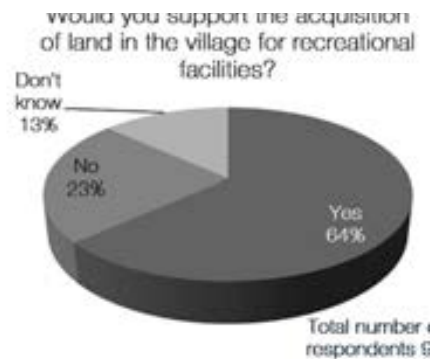




"Fund  
raising  
events  
and  
donations"

#### Acquisition of land for recreational use

The residents were asked if they would support the acquisition of land within the village for recreational facilities. If they answered 'Yes', they were then asked if they would be prepared to fund raise or see an increase in their Council Tax contribution (Precept).



#### Additional facilities/amenities

Many respondents are satisfied with the current facilities and amenities in the village, however there were lots of suggestions for the future:

- Village green/playing field/cricket ground
- Playground for children
- Benches

- Community orchard
- Shop

If you support the purchase of land for recreational purposes, would you be prepared to...				
	Yes	No	Don't know	Not applicable
Fund raise to pay for this? (75 respondents)	67%	12%	7%	15%
Have an increase in the village contribution to the Council Tax (Precept)? (75 respondents)	57%	15%	13%	15%



#### Elderly residents

There were concerns raised for the increasing number of elderly residents and the isolation that can come from living in a rural location such as Newton Valence. The community needs to be mindful of the future needs and requirements of the aging populace including activities, facilities and services.

#### Actions

- Investigate funding/grants for Village Hall refurbishment.
- Investigate what would be the most popular new events to hold at the Village Hall.
- Promote Village Hall as a private function venue.
- Ask residents to volunteer to help with more social events.
- Investigate funding/grants for community projects.
- Survey provision of activities, facilities and services for the elderly.

*"A sensitively designed and located area for kids"*



## COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

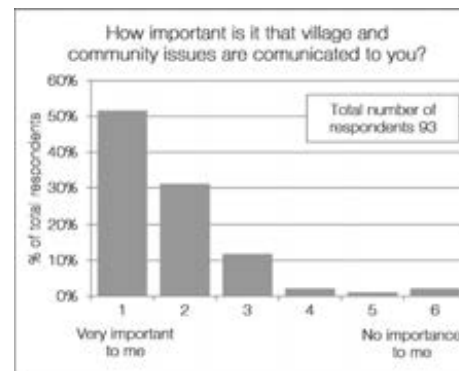
### Introduction

Clear, comprehensive and unambiguous communication is vital to everyone and the responses to the Questionnaire showed that within Newton Valence good communication was considered very important. Many respondents would like to receive a more regular flow of information through a variety of media such as email, websites or newsletters.

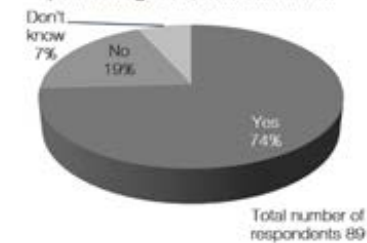
### Data

On the importance of communication of village and community issues, 83% of respondents scored either 1 or 2 as shown in the chart. 74% felt that the current methods of communication are adequate. 26 of the 40 individual comments received

suggested an increased use of email for information distribution and, as a result of this Village Plan exercise, more email addresses have been added to the Parish register. These addresses, where permission to use them has been granted, will be used by the



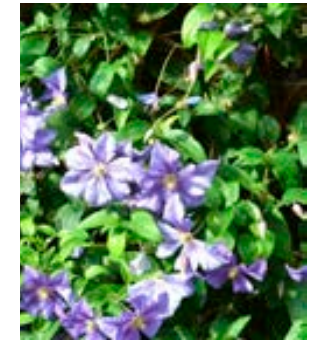
Do you feel that the current methods of communication are adequate? i.e. village notice board, parish magazine, word of mouth.



NVPC, NVSSC and the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to share pertinent information.

The questionnaire also sought views on whether a village website would be beneficial, and the chart on page 31 shows a somewhat split opinion with only 41% for, 37% against and 22% "don't know".





Some years ago the Village had a website that was set up and administered by a willing volunteer. The site attracted little interest and it was later abandoned. The re-creation of a Newton Valence website, if deemed beneficial, would be dependent upon a competent and willing volunteer providing this service.

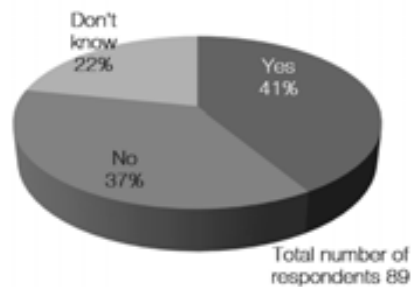
Comments included suggestions for the production of a welcome pack for families or individuals moving into the village and a regular newsletter.

*"Email is good for spreading news and for Neighbourhood Watch items"*

### Actions

- Obtain as many email addresses as possible for a village register and use this list for Neighbourhood Watch circulars, circulating Parish Council agendas and minutes and other relevant/current information.
- Prepare a new resident starter pack containing local information, contacts, Village Hall opening times etc.
- Create a newsletter or website if volunteers can be found.

Do you feel that you would use and benefit from a village website?





*"They [the footpaths] should be as natural & wild as possible, especially to preserve the flora, animals and feeling of walking in untroubled nature"*

## FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS Introduction

Throughout the parish of Newton Valence there are numerous footpaths and bridleways that have been in existence for centuries, some being directly referred to in Gilbert White's "The Natural History of Selborne" first published in 1788.

There is an overwhelming appreciation of the footpaths and bridleways that enable the residents to ramble, walk dogs or, where applicable, to ride horses or bicycles and enjoy the beautiful and peaceful countryside. It is important that these ancient rights of way are maintained and preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Whilst the general view is that there is no requirement for more footpaths, the responses showed a strong desire for the existing

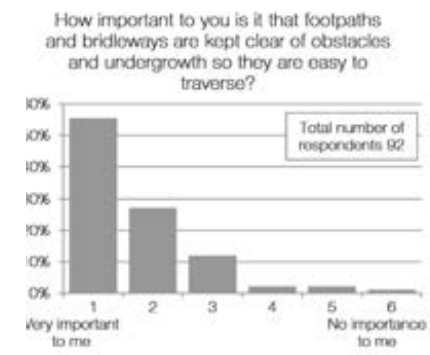
footpaths and bridleways to be well maintained and for clear signage indicating where they run and for whom they are designated (i.e. walkers, riders etc.)

## Data

The data showed that there is a strongly held view that the footpaths and bridleways should be kept clear of obstacles and undergrowth with a total of 82% of respondents marking this either 1 or 2.

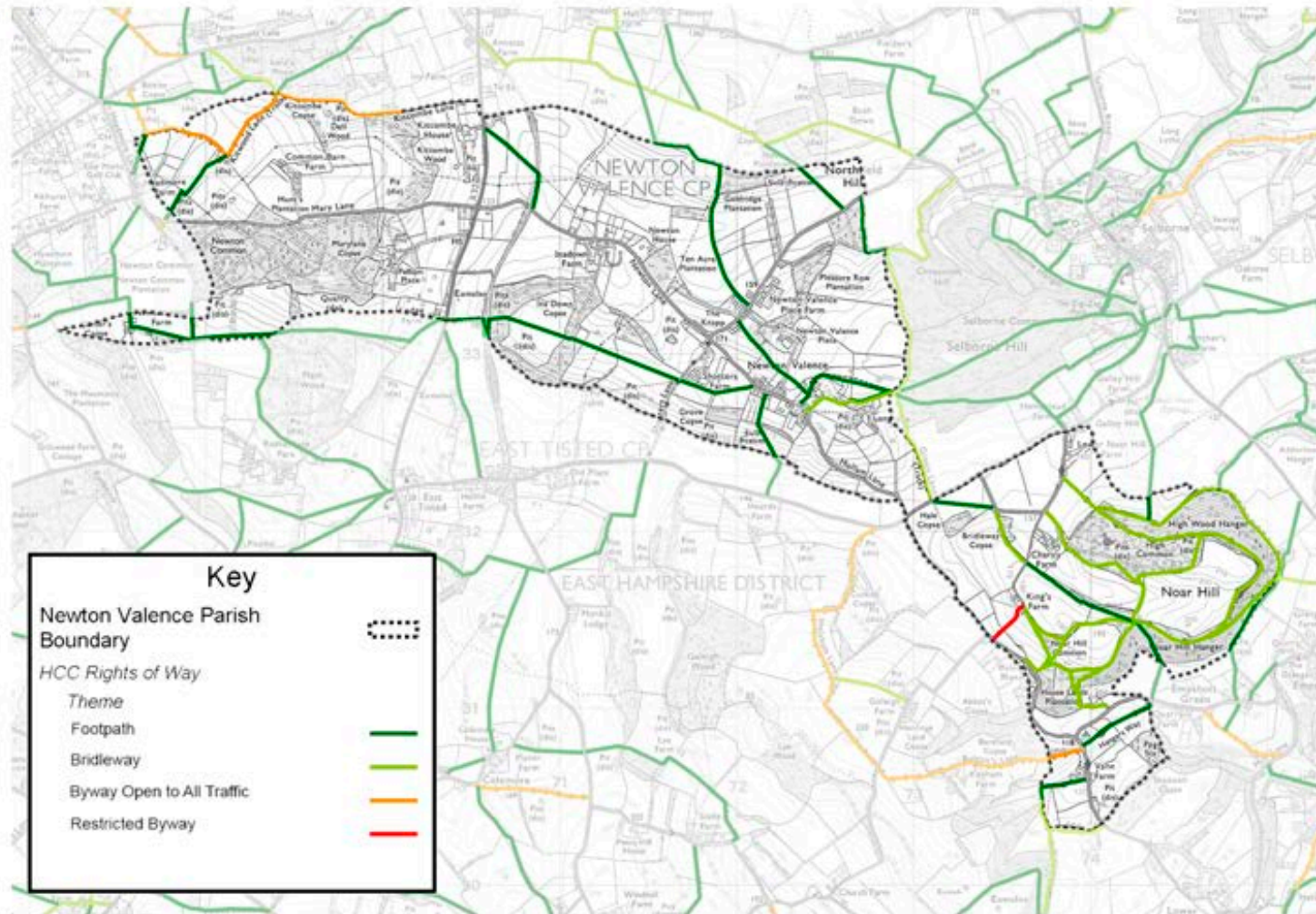
More than 50% of the respondents indicated their satisfaction with the way in which footpaths and bridleways are kept clear of obstacles and undergrowth by marking this either 1 or 2. However, there were some strong comments supporting a need to look closely at the way this is actually happening. Attention was particularly drawn to the state of the bridleway from the village to Selborne

Common which is often flooded so badly that walkers have to climb the banks to avoid deep muddy puddles causing erosion and damage to wild plants.



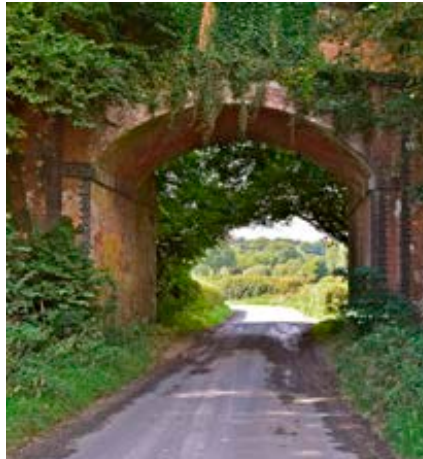


Newton Valence Rights of Way (not to scale)

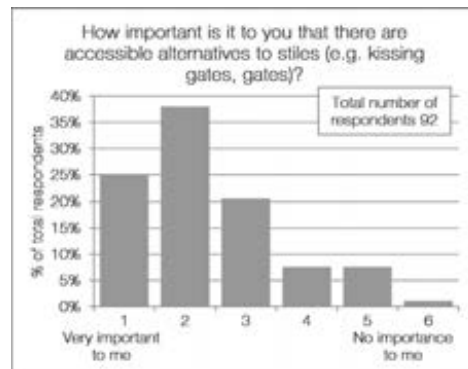


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Footpath and bridleway signage was felt to be important and the creation of accessible alternatives to stiles, such as the more widespread introduction of kissing gates, would be appreciated by many respondents with 63% rating this either 1 or 2. Specific stiles were highlighted as in need of attention.



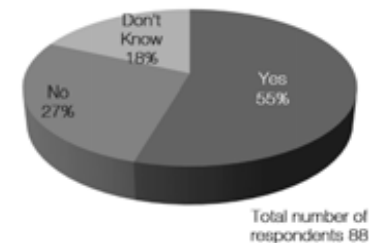
34

Although the data states that there was no overwhelming requirement for more footpaths, there were some very strongly held views and comments made with regard to the paths in the fields to the south of Hullam Lane and Newton Lane. Having been walked regularly by villagers for over 40 years these were flagged as an important feature of the footpath system. Some respondents expressed the view that a recognised footpath or, at least, some recognition of the rights of villagers to walk there, should be established in order to reflect its importance to the village.

### The Writers Way

The response to the possible introduction of the Writers Way was generally positive but by no means unanimous with 55% of respondents saying that they would be supportive of its development. More information is clearly

Would you support the creation of the Writers Way?



needed as to what the impact of this new track would be on the village and surrounding countryside. Some strongly held views were expressed by residents and these tended to fall in the area of not fully appreciating the nature and impact this innovation may have.



#### **Actions**

- Undertake another Footpaths & Rights of Way survey in liaison with the local area Rights of Way team and ensure the appropriate signage is in place and easily visible to walkers and horse riders alike
- Identify the particular stiles and footpaths in need of attention and ensure they are regularly maintained to keep clear of obstacles and undergrowth
- Make a list of the stiles that could be made easier to use and more accessible and identify mechanisms for implementing improvements.
- Investigate possibility of establishing a footpath or the right to walk in the fields to the south of Hullam Lane and Newton Lane
- Identify and establish ownership of the bridleway from the village on to Selborne Common and implement necessary remedial action and ongoing maintenance

*"Where is the route [of the proposed Writers Way] and how would it affect Newton Valence? I don't want to walk and be faced with a swarm of Lycra clad cyclists!"*









## HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

### Introduction

The village of Newton Valence is so small and has such minimal infrastructure that it might be better described as a hamlet. It has been described as “a spasmodic grouping of rural dwellings” due to the differing size, scale and architectural designs of the 86 homes of which it is comprised and it is this diversity and character that the villagers value.

The village is inside the boundary of the relatively new South Downs National Park and is considered open countryside under the Hierarchy of Settlements; it has in the past been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As housing development is such an important, sensitive and topical subject throughout the country the views of

residents were sought on future development within the village.

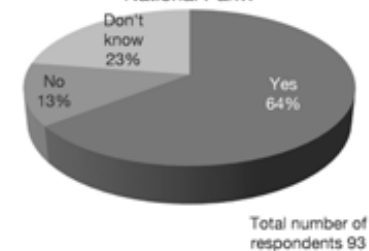
### Data

The responses to the questions on Housing and Development reflect a broad consensus against housing development. There were more mixed views of what to do with redundant farm buildings. There were strong feelings coming through in many of the comments.

### South Downs National Park (SDNP)

As the following chart shows, an overall majority of 64% of respondents felt that being in the National Park was advantageous. 13% of respondents held a contrary view whilst 23% did not know. This result probably reflects both the newness of the SDNP and the fact

How advantageous is it to you that the village is in the South Downs National Park?



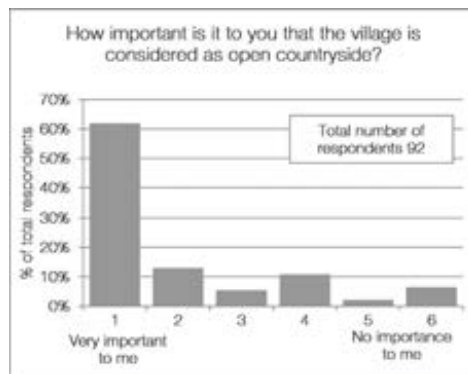
*“Newton Valence is unique. Let's keep it that way as a jewel in the South Downs National Park”*

that the residents are largely unaware of any communication from the SDNP Authority.

A more significant majority see the importance of the village being considered open countryside meaning that no new dwellings are permitted except on a one for one replacement basis with the same footprint. A total of 80% of respondents rated this as



*"Do not change what is an attractive rural area. Plenty of brownfield sites available in Hampshire. No point in being in South Downs National Park if we don't keep it that way"*



either 1, 2 or 3 with 62% giving this the highest level of importance.

### Housing in the future

Given that Newton Valence is considered to be open countryside, it was felt that residents

should be asked for their views *in the event of any future change to this designation*. Any future change in government policy might require the village to draw up supporting documents such as a Village Design Statement.

The Questionnaire asked how, in the event of any future changes to designation or government policy, the village might accommodate additional housing with suggested options including: a small development of 10-20 houses, a landmark house, a mixed development of Local Housing Association and affordable housing for owner occupation. A further option of "no further housing" was also included.

The respondents' view of these options was as follows:

If there is a future change in the designation or government policy, in what way do you think the village could accommodate more housing?			
	Yes	No	Don't know
No further housing? (72 respondents)	61%	28%	11%
A small development of 10-20 houses for owner occupation? (76 respondents)	29%	64%	7%
A landmark house with associated grounds? (75 respondents)	27%	69%	4%
A mixed development of Local Housing Association affordable/low cost housing for owner occupation? (65 respondents)	25%	75%	0%



Six comments did express support for a very small development of circa five houses provided that they were affordable for people born and brought up in the village.

### Redundant agricultural/farm buildings

The Questionnaire sought to establish residents' views of what should be done with buildings at Newton Valence Farm which are no longer used due to recent changes. Any change of use would need appropriate planning permission. Options proposed included small business/light industrial development, storage units or housing.

The respondents' view of these options was as follows:

In what way would you like redundant agricultural/farm buildings used?	Yes	No	Don't know
Small business/light industrial units (81 respondents)	54%	35%	11%
Storage units (81 respondents)	42%	41%	17%
Housing (88 respondents)	57%	40%	3%

These responses would appear to contradict the previous result that showed a clear majority in favour of no further housing but this can perhaps be explained by a preference for brownfield site redevelopment as opposed to new greenfield site development and a recognition that redevelopment may be better than letting redundant farm buildings fall into

disrepair. Some comments made the point that redundant farm buildings could be demolished, removed and the land reverted back to agriculture. A significant number also repeated the concerns raised in other chapters regarding the lanes, the lack of mains services, access to and from the village and inability to support the extra traffic that would be associated with further development.

*"Agricultural/farm use ideally. No use that would involve a marked increase in traffic"*

*"If farm buildings are redundant they should be taken down and removed"*





*"I do not feel that we have any facilities that would support a Traveller site"*

#### **Travellers' Camps or static caravan parks**

It had been noted that other villages had found themselves vulnerable to the siting of camps or static caravan parks because this topic had not been addressed explicitly in their plans. Accordingly it was felt this should be addressed in the Questionnaire to elicit the residents' views so that the District Council and other Authorities would be aware of the views held. The overwhelming majority of 96% of respondents who were against the granting of permission for such a camp or caravan park within the village was the largest of all from the Questionnaire responses and the strength of associated comments left no doubt as to the opinions held.

#### **Actions**

- Investigate timing and linkage of a Village Design Statement to support the Village Plan.
- Newton Valence Farm to consult with residents regarding future use or development of redundant farm buildings.

*"Due to the random nature of the village any infilling or development of greenfield sites would destroy the character of the village"*

*"I don't think the village can accommodate more housing except where there are existing buildings"*



## LOCAL AUTHORITY ISSUES

### Introduction

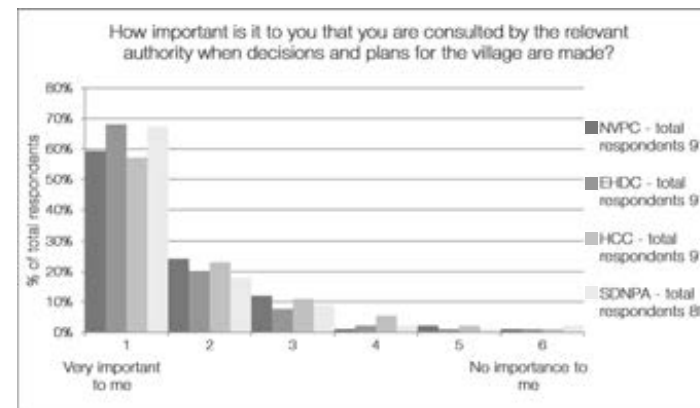
There are four tranches of local government affecting Newton Valence, with the Parish Council (NVPC) the most local, followed by the District Council (EHDC), County Council (HCC) and then the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). All of these bodies have decision making, planning and strategic powers which impact upon the village and its residents to a greater or lesser degree.

### Data

The responses and comments show a high level of consistency in residents' views about local authority matters, particularly in relation to consultation and the expression of views across all tiers of local authority. Unsurprisingly, ease of communication is perceived to be good at Parish Council level,

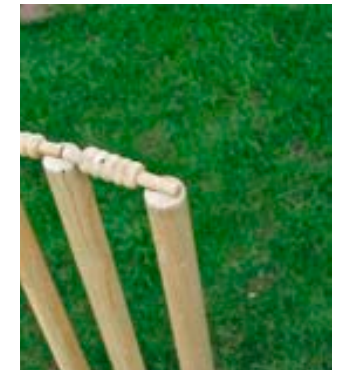
with satisfaction at other levels reducing in proportion to the size and scope of the organisation with SDNPA scoring lowest on this criterion.

Similarly, respondents' confidence that their views are taken into consideration reduces significantly as the local government tiers are perceived to be more bureaucratic and remote from the village. There is a general concern that the higher tiers of local authority are focused on the bigger picture and are not sufficiently aware of the issues affecting village communities.



### Consultation opportunities

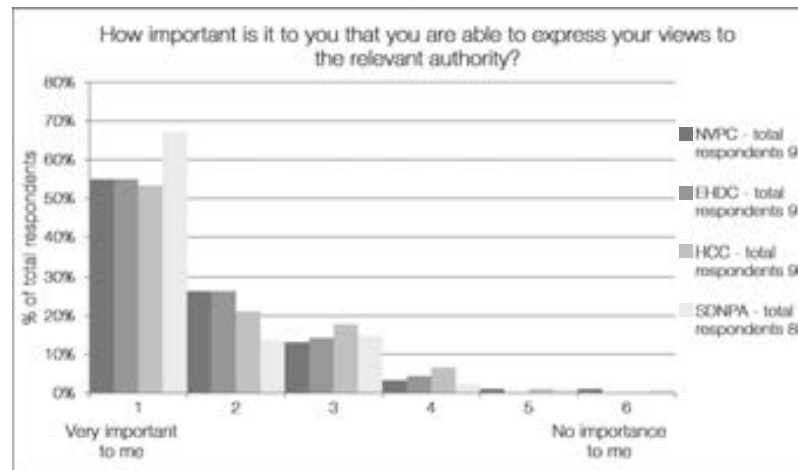
The responses show that the opportunity to be consulted on plans and decisions affecting the village is of high importance to Newton Valence residents. The chart above illustrates the



spread of responses on this question against each of the four local authority organisations, with a high level of consistency apparent. Consultation by EHDC on matters affecting the village was given the greatest importance, with 88% rating this as 1 or 2 in their responses. Consultation by HCC was ranked slightly lower at 80% of 1 and 2 responses.

### Expression of views

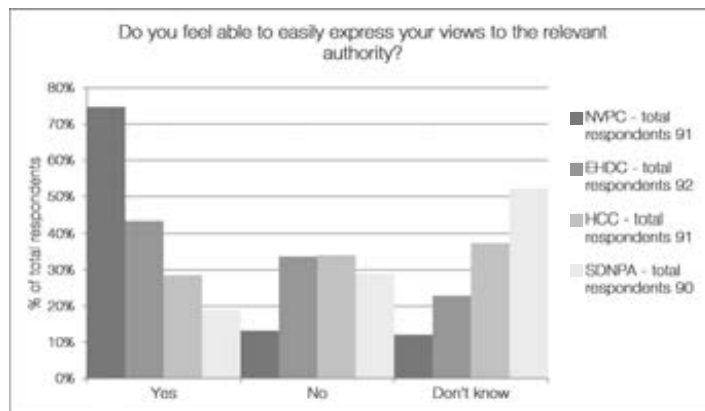
Again, there was a high degree of consistency on the importance of being able to express views to the local authority organisations with 81% of respondents giving this a rating of a 1 or 2 for communications with the Parish Council, EHDC and SDNPA. There was a slight drop in the number feeling it was important to express their views to HCC, with 74% rating this as 1 or 2.



When asked how easy it was to express their views, there was a significant difference between the Parish Council level and the other three tiers, with an increased number of 'Don't knows' as the chart on page 43 illustrates.

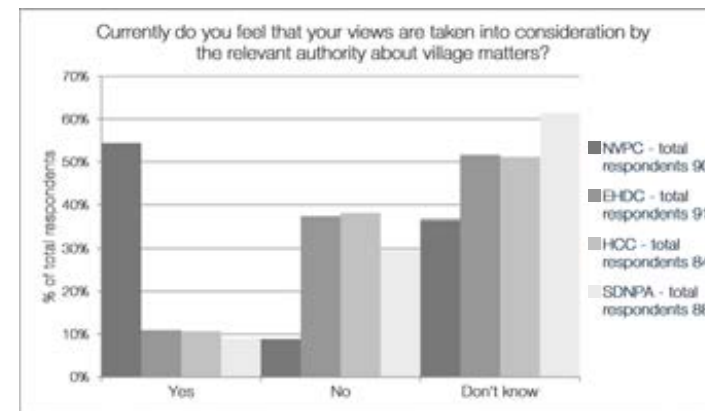
75% of respondents felt that they could express their views easily to the Parish Council, with 12% saying they didn't know. At District Council level the number feeling they could express their views easily reduces to 43%, and at County Council and SDNPA levels the numbers fell to 29% and 19% respectively.





Only a small percentage of residents felt that their views were taken into consideration by the higher tiers of local government, with a positive response of 11% for EHDC and HCC and 9% for SDNPA. In contrast 54% felt that

their views were considered by the Parish Council. A substantial number of respondents answered 'don't know' to this question, with the highest figure being 61% for SDNPA.



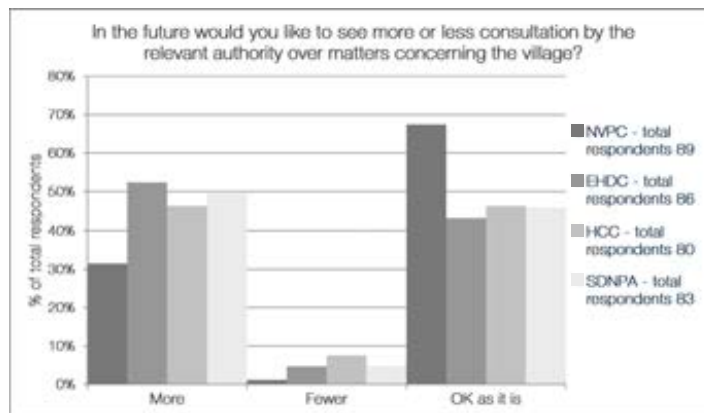
### Consultation in the future

Residents were asked if they would like to see more or less consultation in the future. At Parish Council level the majority of respondents felt that the level of consultation was about

43



*"Why not use email to notify us of applications for road closures/ planning/ education?"*



right (67%), with 31% saying that they would like to see more. However, for the other authorities there was a more even split between those saying they felt the level was about right and those wanting to see more.

For EHDC only 43% of residents felt that the level of consultation was about right, with 52% saying they would like to see more.

#### Suggestions for improvement from comments

**Newton Valence Parish Council:** It was suggested by a number of respondents that

agendas are emailed out to residents in advance of meetings, so that people know what is going to be discussed and can attend or make representations as appropriate.

Emailing minutes of meetings to residents was also felt to be important, as was the publication of a Parish Council newsletter. There was a feeling among some residents that more responsibility should be given to the Parish Council on matters solely affecting the village. A number of respondents also commented that there should be stronger links between the Parish Council and other authorities, with representation from the village at local government consultations and forums.

**East Hampshire District Council:** A number of comments suggested that EHDC hold more public meetings and forums to consult about local issues. Several comments suggested that newsletters could be used more effectively to communicate information on planning and decisions that affect the village. There were also several comments suggesting that email is used more as a method of communication.



**Hampshire County Council:** For HCC, the comments were very similar to those made for EHDC, with requests for more information on local matters via forums, newsletters and email.

**South Downs National Park Authority:**

Comments were mainly concerned with better local communication and provision of information through newsletters, forums and email. There was a general consensus about the lack of information in any format from the SDNPA, although one respondent commented that as a member of the SDNPA forum, weekly information emails were provided.

**Actions**

- Forward comments to NVPC re strengthened links between Parish Council and other authorities and ensuring that village views are represented at local government consultations and forums.
- Forward comments to NVPC re newsletter, and use of email for agendas and minutes
- Forward data and comments to EHDC, HCC and SDNPA
- Request more information for residents about the respective roles and responsibilities of EHDC, HCC and SDNPA.
- Communication - endeavours will be made to display on the Village Notice Board and in the Village Hall contact numbers for each relevant authority for people to contact with concerns/comments.

*"Often one doesn't know something is happening until it has"*

*"The HCC newsletter is alright but more communication is needed over such local incidents as flooding, road diversions etc."*





*"The odd Police Patrol through the village would be re-assuring"*

*"NWS is very well organised and definitely makes you aware of what is going on"*

## SAFETY AND CRIME

### Introduction

Along with other communities in the district, Newton Valence has experienced a reduction in police presence over recent years. In response to growing concern over the rising incidence of theft and petty crime in the village a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) was set up some years ago and the Questionnaire sought feedback on this scheme as well as on personal experiences of crime and the response and effectiveness of the emergency services.

### Data

#### Incidence of Crime

The data shows that approximately one third of respondents or one third of households in the village have been the victim of crime in the last five years. 78% of respondents were either

very or reasonably satisfied with the response from the police; however it was felt that a police car driving through the village on a regular basis would be a welcome presence.

### Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The NWS is run by a village coordinator who regularly emails relevant news or reported suspicious activity. The emails which are distributed by the NWS Coordinator were felt by 97% of respondents to be very useful in keeping the community aware of recent burglaries and suspicious activity in the local area. It was, however, noted that there are a small number of residents that do not use email as a communication method and who would appreciate receiving the NWS information via other means. There was a good awareness of the NWS in the community, with 89% of respondents confirming they were aware of the scheme and

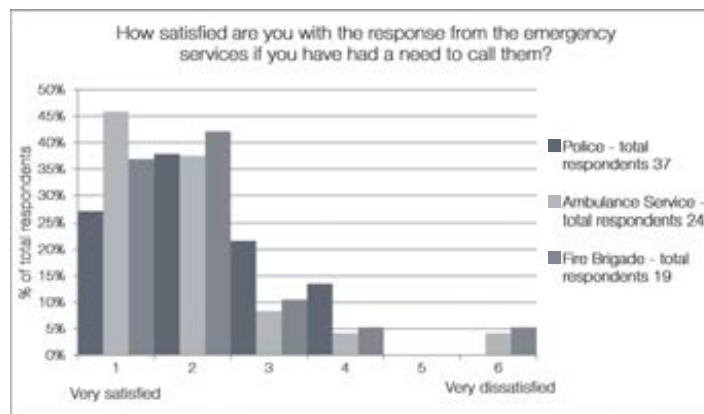
its function. Overwhelmingly it was acknowledged that the NWS provided good information and a great service.

### Signs

60% of the respondents thought that NWS signage would be a good deterrent; however, a small number of the comments suggested that large NWS deterrent signs are not suitable for the village. There were several suggestions made in support of the smaller window-style stickers / notices.

### Emergency Services

Respondents were generally satisfied with the responses they had received from the Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service when these emergency services had been called upon as shown in the chart opposite.



Since 2014, the village has benefitted from the services of a voluntary group of trained Community First Responders, (CFRs) These volunteers, who are despatched by the 999 service and who generally arrive on the scene

in advance of the ambulance crew, use life-saving skills and equipment, such as the automated external defibrillator, to provide early intervention for patients suffering life threatening emergencies in the immediate vicinity of where they live or work. Once an ambulance crew arrives at the scene, the CFR works

alongside a clinically qualified practitioner.

### Security Lighting

Whilst the Questionnaire did not seek information on the issue of security lights, there

were many comments on this subject. It was noted that the contrasting bright light and very dark shaded areas that are often created by security lights provide good hiding places for those with dishonest intentions and thus, in some cases, actually do not deter burglars. Light pollution was also given as a cause for concern with some commenting that extra-bright security lights are often unnecessary. The NVPC and NWS Coordinator will determine some facts from the Police and include in the Action Plan.

### Actions

- Expand the distribution list sent by the NWS Coordinator
- Ascertain whether signage and lighting is in fact a deterrent
- Speak to the local Police and encourage a patrol car to drive through the area if possible

*"I think the properties having small signs and the Farm having a 'Farm Watch' sign would answer that issue. I would be happy to have a small sign on my window or gate"*



*"There are too many cars driving dangerously fast"*

*"There have been too many accidents and countless near misses caused by excessive speed"*

## TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT, ROADS AND LANES

### Introduction

The narrow roads and winding lanes are an essential characteristic of access to and from Newton Valence; the heritage from a slower, agricultural age.

The speed of traffic within the village is an issue of great concern with 80% of respondents to the Questionnaire favouring the imposition of a speed limit. Opinions vary on whether road signs or traffic calming measures would provide the best solution to this perennial problem.

There is significant concern over the state of the roads, the erosion of the sunken lanes and the need to deter HGVs from using the village unnecessarily.

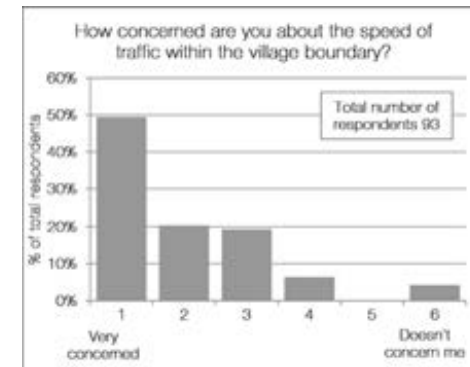
The issue of passing places on the narrow lanes also gave rise to a number of comments. Consideration was given to the question of a general bus service but this attracted little interest. However the reintroduction of a school bus service was supported by interested parties.

### Data

#### Speed of traffic

Respondents are concerned about the speed of traffic within the village with 88% rating this issue from 1 to 3 in terms of importance.

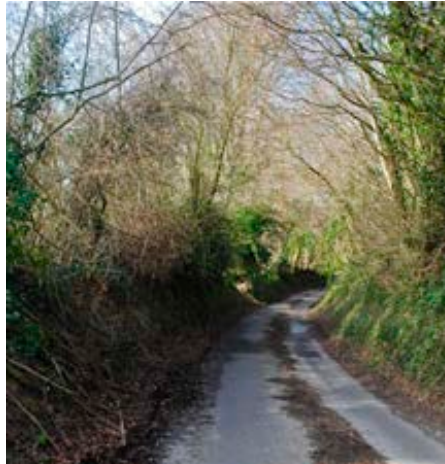
84% of those expressing a view (80% of all respondents) would favour imposing a speed limit, and when asked about what this limit should be, 97% of respondents opted for either 20mph or 30mph compared to the national speed limit of 60mph which currently applies on the majority of the roads and lanes



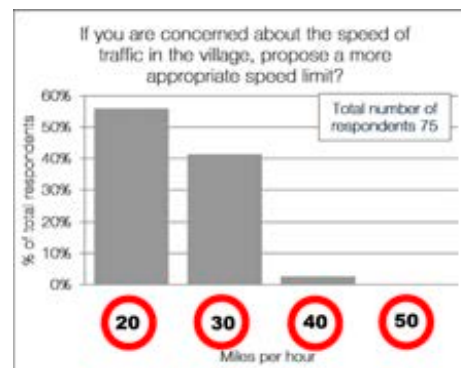
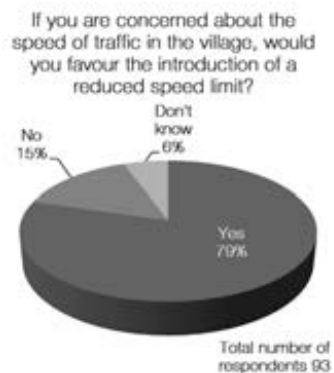
within the village. The majority of respondents (56%) would opt for 20mph as an appropriate limit as shown in the chart on page 49.

53% of those expressing a view are happy to see more signage to deal with the traffic speed. A number of comments expressed a





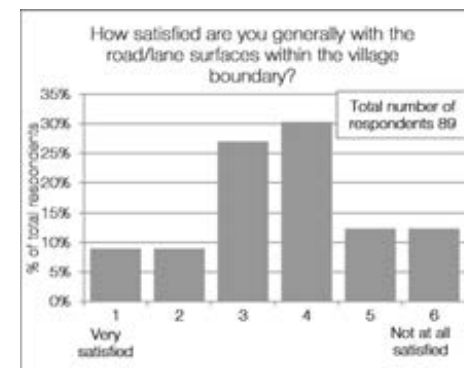
desire to have additional signs only at the Village Hall and the top of Hullam Lane. On the question of whether traffic calming measures should be adopted, over two thirds of respondents indicated that they do not want to see such measures in the village.



A small number of respondents made comments about speed bumps or sleeping policemen but the statistical response suggests that the majority do not want these.

### Road condition and repair

With regard to the state of the roads there was a mixed response with 57% scoring 3 or 4 suggesting an element of ambivalence. Less than 20% scored 1 or 2 (very satisfied) as shown below.



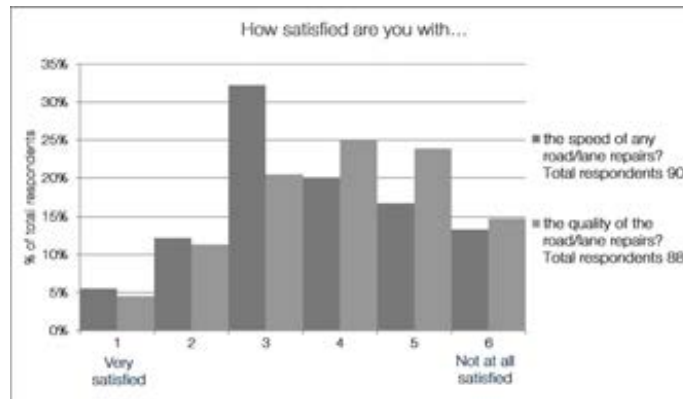
*"I am in favour of limited extra signage at the bottom of Newton and Hullam lanes"*

*"Speed limit signs at entry point to the village"*



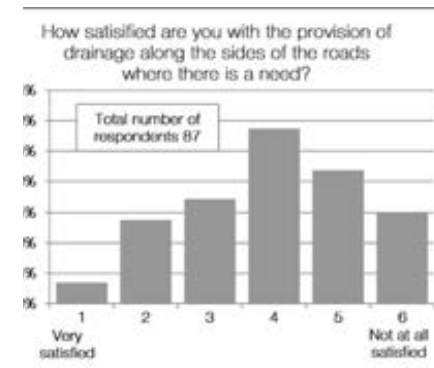
*"Pot hole repairs are usually of poor quality with tarmac being shoveled in which does not last"*

The speed and quality of road repairs showed a broad range of responses. The data suggests that respondents were generally more satisfied with the speed than the quality of repairs as shown below.



There were many comments about the state of the roads and, in particular, pot holes. The speed of traffic through the village was, as discussed above, a concern to all those who made comments and some respondents commented that pot holes actually serve to reduce the speed of traffic.

Respondents were asked to provide their views on the provision of drainage along the sides of the roads. The chart on the right shows a marginal level of dissatisfaction with the current state, recognising that only the A32 has roadside drainage.



In addition there were nine comments about the flooding during the 2013/14 winter. The general feeling was that the provision and maintenance of the A32 drains/verge cuttings was inadequate and contributed to the severity of the floods.



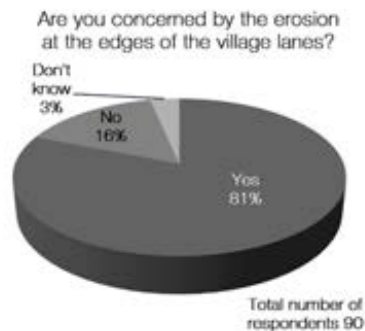






*"Distressed at the carnage to the banks of Hullam Lane by cars climbing the banks to pass each other rather than reversing to an appropriate passing place"*

Respondents were also invited to say whether they were concerned about the level of erosion to the edges of the village lanes. 81% expressed their concern at the erosion, the damage being done to Hullam Lane and the number of HGVs finding a way into and out of the village and damaging the verges.



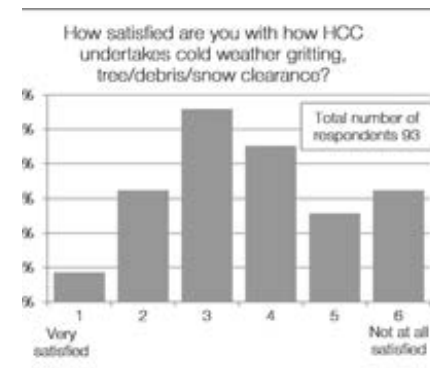
52

The chart to the right shows the diverse range of responses to questions about the performance by HCC of cold weather gritting, tree, debris and snow clearance.

Respondents were asked to comment on how EHDC deals with fly tipping. On this issue, 63% scored 1, 2 or 3 suggesting that the majority are content.

Respondents were also asked how important it is that roads are kept safe by clearing up as much as possible after agricultural traffic has moved through the village and a sizeable majority of 89% marked this as 1, 2 or 3.

*"Damage to verges is progressive and very destructive"*



*"Substantial improvements to the drainage at Newton Lane/A32 junction and along the farm (Selborne) road to prevent their continual flooding – it is no longer acceptable to take palliative measures, HCC needs to resolve this once and for all"*



### SatNav Systems

A further issue which unites the community is whether Satellite Navigation Systems should show the roads and lanes of Newton Valence to be weight restricted (where applicable). A total of 96% of respondents scored this as either 1 or 2 indicating this is a very important issue to the village.

### Passing Places

On the issue of passing places, there is no obvious consensus of opinion on Hullam Lane with similar numbers of respondents being content and discontent with the status quo. Newton Lane, Mary Lane and Selborne Road are generally considered to be satisfactory by the majority.

### Bus service

The re-introduction of a general bus service does not attract substantial interest with 58% of respondents rating this either 4, 5, or 6.



*"SATNAV showing impassability of lanes is vital"*

*"An informal car share service would be more practical than a bus service"*

*"Not sure a bus service would be viable"*

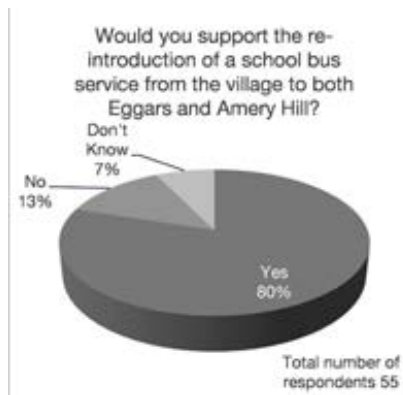
*"Hullam Lane needs clearer signage at both ends - not suitable for any HGV"*



*"Nearly everyone has a car"*

### School Bus Service

There was more interest in the re-introduction of a school bus service. 39% of respondents felt that this was not applicable to them (e.g. no school age children), but of those to whom this question was applicable, 80% would like to see the re-introduction of a school bus service to Eggars and Amery Hill schools.



### Actions

- *Traffic/Speed limit management - Share results with EHDC, SDNPA and Hampshire Highways and request meetings to learn about criteria, options, timeframes and next steps on a holistic basis to include passing places, sunken lanes, erosion, drainage and overhanging branches.*
- *Advise SatNav system providers of weight restrictions.*
- *School bus service - investigate with the appropriate authority (e.g. education authority or bus company) what is their policy/criteria or the minimum number of children going to secondary school in Alton to trigger a re-introduction of a school bus service.*





## UTILITIES

### Introduction

This section of the Questionnaire sought to ascertain the opinions of residents about the provision of utility services to Newton Valence. Also discussed were the controversial subjects of shale gas extraction (fracking) within the village and the possible introduction of renewable energy technologies.

### Data

The data has shown that the provision and reliability of utility services to the properties of Newton Valence is very important to the residents. The data has also shown that residents have strong views on the introduction of renewable energy installations within the village boundary.

### Broadband

The speed and reliability of Broadband is of great importance to the residents of Newton Valence especially with the growing number of people either working from home or running small businesses. Most are unhappy with the current Broadband speed with a few residents complaining of the service 'dropping out' on a regular basis. 75% would like to see the provision of a faster Broadband service with 70% expressing an interest in subscribing to a Superfast Broadband service if it were to become available and reliable. There are a small number of properties who don't have Broadband.

### Mobile phone signal strength

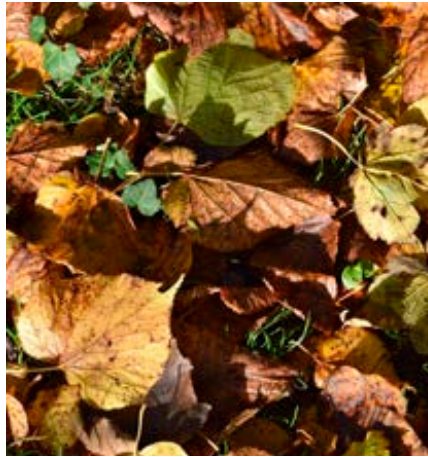
The data showed an almost even split between those that find the mobile phone signal strength to be adequate and those that don't. Some of those that don't have a good signal

have suggested the installation of a mobile phone mast somewhere within the Newton Valence boundary. It is generally recognised that the signal strength depends on the provider and location of the property with most wanting to see improved signal strength at their properties.

### Power supply

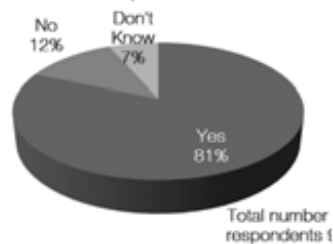
The reliability of power to residents' homes is very important and 82% feel that this could be improved. 81% expressed concern about the number of power outages in Newton Valence and the length of time taken to restore the supply following an outage. There were several comments from residents who feel that more could be done to keep overhanging branches trimmed back to help prevent damage to overhead cables during bad weather.

*"Broadband is the lifeline of rural enterprise/success. We all need the very best in broadband"*



*"Mains drainage would be preferable to a septic tank but not at the expense of having more houses!"*

Do you feel that the current level of power reliability could be improved?



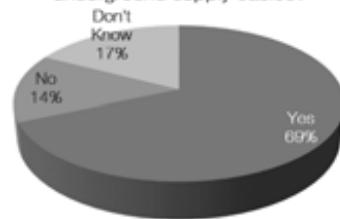
Total number of respondents 1

#### Underground supply cables

69% of residents would welcome the burial of electricity cables to replace the existing pylons but some commented that this is a non-starter due to the cost. It is generally felt that more information is required about the feasibility of burying the cables. There were a few comments about the possibility of a communal

generator to supply power to the village during power outages.

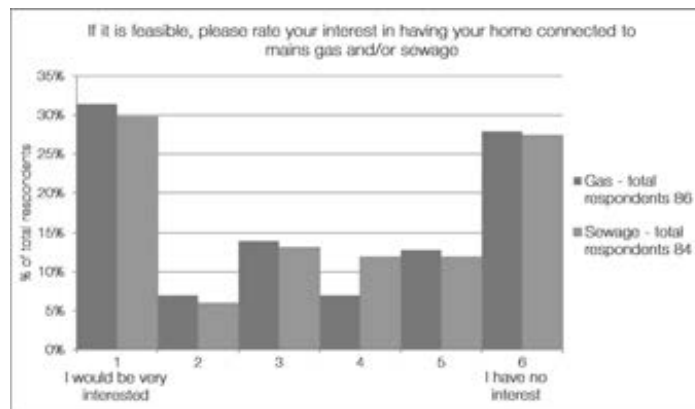
Would you like to see the existing electricity pylons replaced with underground supply cables?



Total number of respondents 92

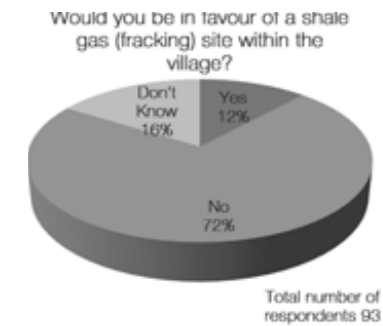
#### Mains gas & sewage

When asked about the possibility of being connected to mains gas and sewage the data showed an even split between the two extremes i.e. some were very interested whilst there were as many definitely not interested. Those who were very strongly opposed have concerns that the connection of mains gas and sewage might make Newton Valence a more desirable location for housing development. There were also doubts about the feasibility of connecting a remote village such as Newton Valence to these services.



### Shale gas extraction (fracking)

There was a strong response to this question with 72% of residents opposed to fracking within the village. However the comments showed that many lack the relevant information to make an informed decision. There were significant concerns raised about the environmental impact of fracking.



57





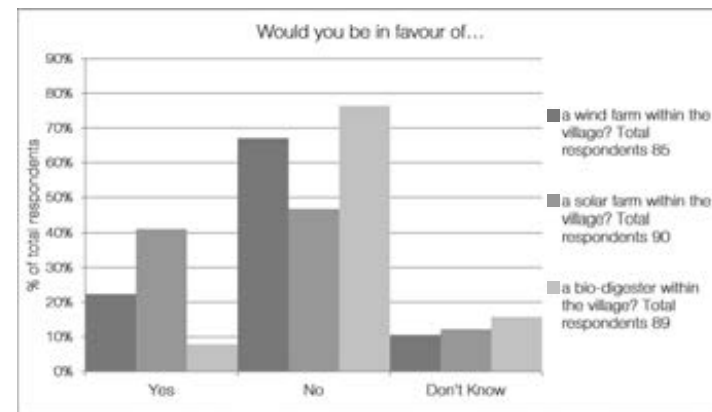
*"If there is shale gas below our village then a proper study into the economic viability of extractions and location of sites should be undertaken. Only then can reasonable consideration be made"*

*"I am opposed to fracking on environmental grounds, and believe as a society we should be looking at our energy usage and not destroying the countryside/planet to satisfy our ever growing needs"*

#### Renewable Technologies

As the chart shows, 67% of residents would not be in favour of a wind farm in the village. There was a more even split in opinions about the introduction of a solar farm, with some of those in favour suggesting that it would need to be unobtrusive and shielded from view.

76% would be against a bio-digester within the village because of concerns about the amount of additional heavy traffic bringing waste to the plant.





### **Actions**

- Newton Valence Parish Council to liaise with HCC over plans for a super-fast Broadband connection to the village.
- Pass on concerns to SSE about the reliability of the power supply to the village and the speed of the restoration of power following an outage. Communicate with SSE about the maintenance of overhanging trees/branches.
- Pass on data and comments regarding fracking to SDNPA.
- Investigate Government plans to bury power supply cables to replace pylons.

*"I am very interested in renewable technologies but it would require a lot of research to see how this could best benefit Newton Valence"*

*"Happy to have Solar Power ground installations provided they are well hidden"*







## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The interest, enthusiasm, support and input from all residents who responded and from the individuals and agencies listed below is gratefully acknowledged.

### Newton Valence Vision 2030 Village Plan Steering Group:

- Julian Balaam\*
- Bob Fewings\* (Chair)
- Sue Harrington\*
- Hamish Janson
- Peter Kirby
- Andrew Parsons
- Gill Pendlebury
- Stephen Robertson
- Mary Seed
- Tara Simpson\*
- Christopher Trower
- Liz Try

(\* = Final Editing Team)

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- John Geoghegan (Community Officer – Alton and Surrounding Villages)
- Mathew Fisk (Geographic Information Systems Officer)
- Finance Department (for Grant towards Village Plan preparation)

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- Mark Kemp-Gee (Alton Rural Division)
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- Kathy Allen (Hampshire Library & Information Services)
- Clive Thornton (Principal Engineer Highways – Petersfield)

### South Downs National Park Authority

- Nick Heasman (Western Area Manager)
- Chris Paterson (Communities Lead)

### Action Hampshire

- Joanna Dixon (Senior Rural Officer)

# *Vision 2030*

## **NEWTON VALENCE** VILLAGE PLAN

Charts, tables and technical support Tara Simpson  
Hand drawn map © Caroline Hewett  
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