

**CONCLUSIONS**

Conclusions have been drawn from the analysis of each questionnaire question (1. Car Parking; 2. Natural Environment; 3. Housing and 4. Vision for East Boldon). The analysis of each question has been written up as 4 separate papers and should be read in conjunction with conclusions. Each paper follows the same format and includes the number/statistics of responses made to each sub question and a summary of comments under emergent 'key headings', as such they provide much greater detail and so the back story to these conclusions.

Whilst there were 4 main questions (with sub-questions), main common themes and concerns emerge and re-appear throughout questionnaire, these therefore form the basis of the conclusions. The 4 main common themes appear to be:

- A. Retaining, protecting and enhancing the green belt and wildlife within this (flora and fauna),
- B. The use of brown field sites, first and foremost, for any new housing.
- C. Concerns about the current levels of parking and traffic and impact on the village.
- D. Maintaining, improving and developing village assets important to residents

**A. Retaining, protecting and enhancing the green belt and wildlife within this (flora and fauna).**

In Question 2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, 99% favour the protecting of the green belt (1% nil response) and 97% favour the proposal that any new development should contain appropriate provision of landscaping, green corridors, wildlife habitats, with only 1% in disagreement. (Also see comments in attached HOUSING paper and B below.)

75% provided further comments, the majority want a 'green' village rich in wildlife habitats and stress the retention, protection and enhancement of the green belt/spaces and corridors as they bring many benefits to both humans and wildlife 'the green spaces add to the character of the village and provide much needed habitat for wildlife.'

96% are in favour of designating greenspaces, 64% provided further comments and highlighted 23 spaces for enhancement and protection. The most highly rated are: The front of St. George's Church, all Green spaces; Grange Park, the Mundles/Recreation Park/fields around, behind the Cenotaph (open up memorial). Some benefits of green spaces include the enhancement of health and well-being, provision of social and recreation facilities, combating pollution, provision of a village focal point for the community.

**B. The use of brown field sites first and foremost for any new housing.**

In Question 3 HOUSING, 0% in favour of using green field sites. The preference to use brown field sites first and foremost is the predominant response, but with the proviso that even here there is wildlife that must be protected. Secondly is the need to protect the green belt/green spaces/areas ("It would be a crime to lose the green belt", "Greenfields are an important part of East Boldon", "We need to protect our green fields for the future", "Narrowing the green belt between villages avoided at all costs", "only brownfields").

93% agree that any new housing in the plan area should reflect the specific needs identified by East Boldon residents survey. Only 1 (1%) disagreed. 56% added further comments confirming this view, specifying the plan should include different types and sizes, be of a high standard and design must be sympathetic to the area. Many expressed the need to retain and protect the 'green' character of the village and were concerned about the impact of any new housing on infra-structure.

96% would like any financial contribution from developers for new housing to be spent within the village, the main suggestions centre on maintaining, improving and developing village assets, in particular the green spaces and places, parks being top of this list. Developing play

areas, recreation spaces for young people particularly and providing a village gathering space are other ideas. Parking and traffic issues are large concerns, suggestions to address these include introducing a village shuttle bus and diverting heavy traffic away from shops and residential areas.

### **C. Concerns about the current levels of parking and traffic and impact on the village.**

In Question 1 CAR PARKING, parking in all 4 areas is highlighted as a major concern, the area ranked the most problematic is a) near the metro 93%, followed by c) shops on Station Road & Langholm Road 80%, then b) schools 83 (74%) and finally d) shops on Front Street 45%

74% agree that parking standards should be set. 81% commented further on concerns and many offered suggestions as to how to address these, 2 (2%) had no concerns.

The most favoured method is the introduction of parking restrictions, including around the schools, such as residents only permits or restricted waiting times for non-residents. Also extending the metro car park/parking spaces, several people suggested using the disused O'Brien's site/former Suzuki garage for parking, but some felt that providing extra parking might encourage even more people to park in East Boldon.

### **D. Maintaining, improving and developing village assets important to residents**

In Question 4 VISION FOR EAST BOLDON, 87% agree with the proposed EBF vision, 2% disagree. Whilst most respondents agree with the draft vision, only 22% people provided additional comments e.g. that it reflects the character of East Boldon and residents' desires for the future of the village.

As noted in Q 2 HOUSING and B above, 93% agree that any new housing in the plan area should reflect the specific needs and views identified by East Boldon residents, particularly with regard to different types and size of housing and its design, which must be of a high standard and be sympathetic to the area/architectural landscape.

The main areas of concern were about housing and infra structure, the impact of new housing (which should not be large scale) and the inability of the infra-structure to cope with the additional pressures this brings, including to parking (already at 'breaking point'), schools and drainage (which is currently struggling in Beckenham).

In the FINALLY! part of Q4, 27% provided further comments, they highlight that residents value and give their support to East Boldon Forum, are concerned about housing, stress the need to maintain and enhance East Boldon's unique character, the need to impose traffic and road management systems.