

Woldingham Residents' Survey and Neighbourhood Plan

This communication is being sent to all Woldingham residents who gave us their email address when completing the Woldingham Residents' Survey. You asked to be contacted about the Neighbourhood Plan and the Survey results. In many cases you also asked to be actively involved. If you no longer wish to receive communications, please reply asking to be removed from our list.

Dear Resident

This is a brief update on recent developments and news of how you can now be involved!

The Survey:

The response deadline has been set as Saturday 9th November. A summary account of the Survey results will appear in the Parish Council Newsletter at the end of November. A full account will be published in early 2014.

We are confident that the Survey gives a fairly reliable indication of the views of residents. To date we have had a very encouraging '45%' response rate: ie number of responses/number of households. Even allowing for some households lodging more than one response, this is very encouraging. The age spread of respondents is broadly representative of the village, except for the under 30s, but we expected that. We shall be conducting a 'young people's survey' to supplement the picture.

The FORUM

On 3rd October we held the first meeting of our FORUM for the Neighbourhood Plan. About 30 villagers and councillors met in my home. After enjoying wine and snacks we heard a presentation by our adviser, Stella Scrivener of Planning Aid, on the steps involved in producing our Plan.

We then looked at some preliminary trends in the Survey results. Two very encouraging results are worth sharing. (a) Nearly every respondent has said that they support the idea of a Woldingham Neighbourhood Plan. (b) All the possible policy options that we listed were well supported.

This was followed by an exercise designed to explore what action would be needed to follow up some of the policy options. That provoked some lively discussion on the issues thrown up by the Survey. We carried on until well after the end of the meeting!

THE NEXT STAGE

We are now setting up groups for residents to join. These will help us to carry forward projects and draft the Neighbourhood Plan. The groups will cover the following broad themes which were explored by the Survey:

Housing and development, village character
Facilities: leisure, work, education

Transport, safety, law and order

Depending on the number of participants and their specific interests, it is likely that the broad themes may be further divided and allocated to separate groups. There is also scope for offering your skills to help with some general tasks if you have not already done so (research and evidence, policy writing and publication, publicity, etc).

CAN YOU HELP US IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS?

A: It is extremely important that we secure strong participation in the above groups in order to drive forward on the Neighbourhood Plan. Please DO consider joining in and contact me on 01883 653371 as soon as possible stating your theme preferences.

B: We would like to achieve as close as possible to a 50% response rate. Please encourage anyone who has not completed the Survey, especially those aged 16-30, to do so by the deadline of 9th November (see below for details).

C: We need a few young people to assist us in putting together the content of our 'young people's survey'. If you know any teenager (16-19) who is willing to help, please ask them to contact me by email or on 01883 653371.

D: Lastly, a vacancy on the Parish Council will soon be advertised, on the resignation of Cllr Dench. If you would like to know what's involved in being a councillor, please ring me for a confidential, no obligation discussion on 01883 643371.

With warm thanks for your continuing interest!

Frank Myers
Chairman, Woldingham Parish Council

The Woldingham Residents' Survey can be completed in four ways. (We welcome all responses but online is best for reducing data entry and postage costs.)

- (a) paste this link into your browser <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VR8W2FZ>
- (b) follow the link given on our Twitter page www.twitter.com/woldinghampc
- (c) follow the link given on the home page of www.woldingham.com
- (d) fill in the booklet sent to every household; ring 01883 653371 for a copy.