

Summary of the VDS Questionnaire Results

In total 124 questionnaires were sent out on the basis of 1 per household with parts within each questionnaire for each resident to complete where appropriate and 51 responses were received. The survey represents the views of over 100 residents and the replies indicate that Nutbourne is a community with a balance of young and old, newcomers and long standing residents – and they like it here.

1. The People

The time for which the respondents have lived here varies fairly evenly from having arrived recently to over 30 years. All said their homes here were their primary residences.

The major reasons given for living here could be summarised by “*Nutbourne is a peaceful rural environment with a community feeling and good access to amenities*”.

Around half of the respondents are employed of which about a quarter work in the village and a third are retired. About a tenth of the population are children in education. There are approximately two vehicles per household.

2. Housing and Development

Very few agree with any new housing outside the existing built up area.

Two thirds of respondents oppose any new housing or infilling in the village centre. One third would accept some sympathetic infilling.

On site parking is considered vital for all new dwellings and over 80% think that more attention should be given to retaining adequate space around a dwelling.

Extensions to existing dwellings that blend with the original are highly preferable.

3. Village Design

If there is to be development, the overwhelming majority think that building style and materials, boundary types and adherence to the Conservation Area policies are very important. There is a clear preference that any new development should blend with old Nutbourne.

There is a strong desire to retain/see more stone walls and a dislike of close boarded fencing and high hedging. A number expressed the desire for a more open aspect in the village centre similar to how it was in the early part of the last century.

The preservation of Nutbourne Common and local footpaths are thought very important as is the better tending of hedgerows, verges and trees.

Almost all thought the preservation of the strategic gap between Nutbourne and its neighbours to be absolutely essential.

The lack of a sensible speed limit in the village is of concern to many and some respondents thought traffic calming measures were needed.

Poor storm water drainage and its impact on the road surface are of concern (rectification in progress).

The great majority preferred that the village remains without street lighting.

4. Amenities

Three quarters use the pub, the local footpaths and the post box. Around half visit Stuart's Wood and smaller numbers indulge in cycling and horse riding. The phone box, village notice board and garage are also used.

There was no consensus about the need for additional amenities.

5. Environment

Crime is of concern and there is a desire for a strong Neighbourhood Watch and more visible policing.

Dog fouling is an important issue.

There is some disquiet about noise from aircraft and machinery.

6. Likes and Dislikes

Nutbourne is appreciated for what it is – a quiet and largely unspoilt village with a good community spirit set within accessible countryside yet close enough to urban civilisation. The Rising Sun is highly valued.

There are always downsides of course. Respondents commented adversely upon

- On street parking, and the speed of through traffic.
- Unsympathetic and overdevelopment in recent decades.
- Storm water drainage.
- Somewhat unkempt aspect of The Street's appearance.

In addition to the above, residents would also like to see;

- A central meeting point – village green – village hall.
- Overhead power and telephone cables moved underground.

We asked which features should be given prominence in the Village Design Statement. The answers reinforced the points already made.

- **As little new development as possible.**
- **All developments and extensions to be in keeping with what is there now.**
- **The preservation of the village and its surroundings.**
- **Increased pride in the village's appearance.**
- **Improved traffic/parking management.**