

## Appendix F Summary of Questionnaire Feedback from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Public Exhibition

Feedback forms were provided at the exhibition event which sought views from the local community in respect of the suggested vision, objectives and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. Attendees were given the option either to complete and return the form there, or to take it away and return by post. The feedback forms included the following questions:

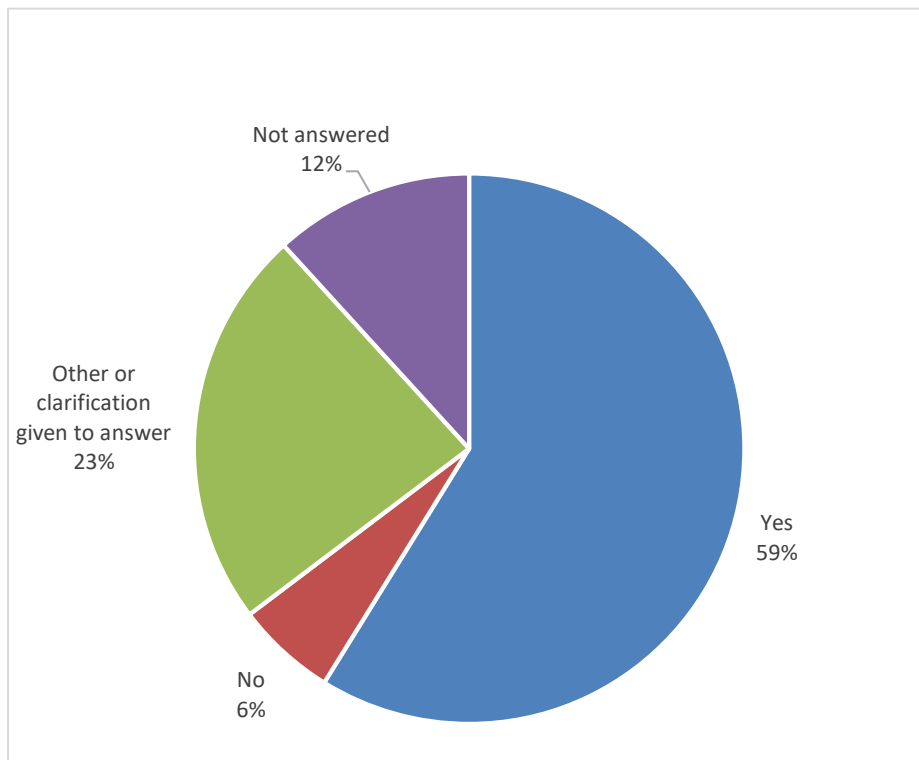
1. Do you agree with the Vision for the Parish and the Neighbourhood Plan Objectives?
2. Is there anything you would add to or change about the Vision or Objectives which you think is important to include in the Plan?
3. The boards identify policy themes and projects for the Neighbourhood Plan. Are there any additional or different policy theme, projects or specific planning issues that you would like to see included in the Neighbourhood Plan?
4. Space for any other general comments.

A total of 34 completed feedback forms were received. These were analysed by coding the responses by theme. If a person made reference to a theme this was counted once (whether one or more points were made in relation to that theme). It should be noted that not all the questions were answered and in quite a few cases generalised comments and concerns regarding perceived issues in the Parish were given, rather than a specific response to the question. An overview of the responses is provided below.

### **Question 1: Do you agree with the Vision for the Parish and the Neighbourhood Plan Objectives?**

A yes/no option was given for answering this question. As shown in Figure 1, the majority of people agreed with the vision and objectives. Only 6% of responses selected 'no' in response to this question. A few people added comments on the form to clarify their responses and these have been captured under 'Other or clarification given to answer'. Comments of clarification included, 'broadly', 'but only in part', and 'unsure, good start'.

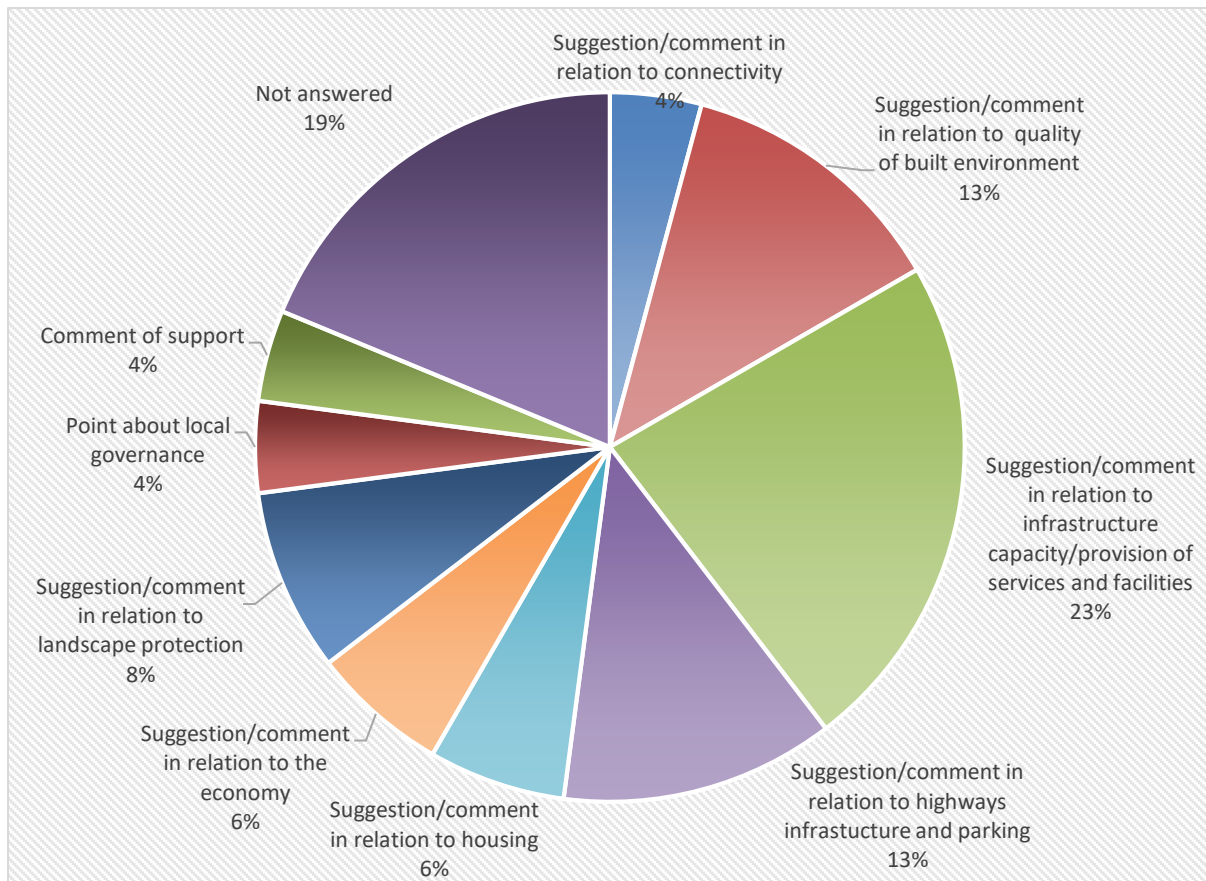
**Figure 1: Responses to Question 1**



**Question 2: Is there anything you would add to or change about the Vision or Objectives which you think is important to include in the Plan?**

Responses to this question encompassed suggestions for topics that should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, or those which should have more coverage. A number of comments were framed simply as generalised concerns with the current state of the Parish, while some suggested specific interventions they wanted to see happen in the Parish. The pie chart in Figure 2 shows the themes to which comments related.

**Figure 2: Responses by theme to Question 2**



Suggestions and comments made in relation to **infrastructure capacity and provision of services or facilities**, included the need generally to address capacity issues in relation to healthcare and education facilities, with one comment stating that there was little comment on this in the suggested objectives and policy themes. A number of the comments also raised the need for certain facilities/services including pubs, music venues, public toilets, banks, and a police station. One respondent suggested that the using the wording ‘as far as possible’ in respect of Objective 7<sup>1</sup> was too strong with facilities being better provided outside of the Parish in many cases.

Suggestions and comments made in relation to the **quality of the built environment** included the following: the character of the Parish must be enhanced where ever possible or as a minimum maintained; reference in OSM Objective 1<sup>2</sup> should make some reference to improving the appearance of Fimmimore Industrial Estate and making better use of the space; West Hill Objective 1<sup>3</sup> should make reference to the Village Design Statement and the link between the two documents could be strengthened; unused and under developed sites in the centre of Ottery St Mary should be restored; and there should be restrictions on building heights.

<sup>1</sup> Objective 7: *Meeting the social, recreational and cultural needs of the community within the Parish as far as possible – To support a sustainable, inclusive, fulfilling and healthy lifestyle.*

<sup>2</sup> OSM Objective 1: *Focusing future development on the western side of the River Otter in the interest of accessibility to the A30 and to minimise traffic impact on the Town Centre.*

<sup>3</sup> West Hill Objective 1: *To protect and maintain the unique character and special qualities of West Hill, whilst enhancing the settlement’s sustainability and inclusiveness.*

Suggestions for **landscape protection** included the following comments: requesting the expansion of suggested green wedges; expressing mixed views in respect of opening up Belbury Copse; wanting to protect the Otter River valley and the need for more action in upland areas that feed into the Otter to reduce top soil erosion; suggesting that the river valley be made a nature reserve; and suggesting that West Hill be designated as a conservation area.

In respect of **highways infrastructure and parking** a couple of comments were received suggesting the need to give this topic more priority and emphasis in the Neighbourhood Plan, with one comment suggesting the need to give traffic, parking and general access in infrastructure in OSM more priority and another stating that greater emphasis should be placed on finding a solution to the narrow street access through Silver Street. General concerns were raised in the responses about the traffic flow through the centre of Ottery St Mary.

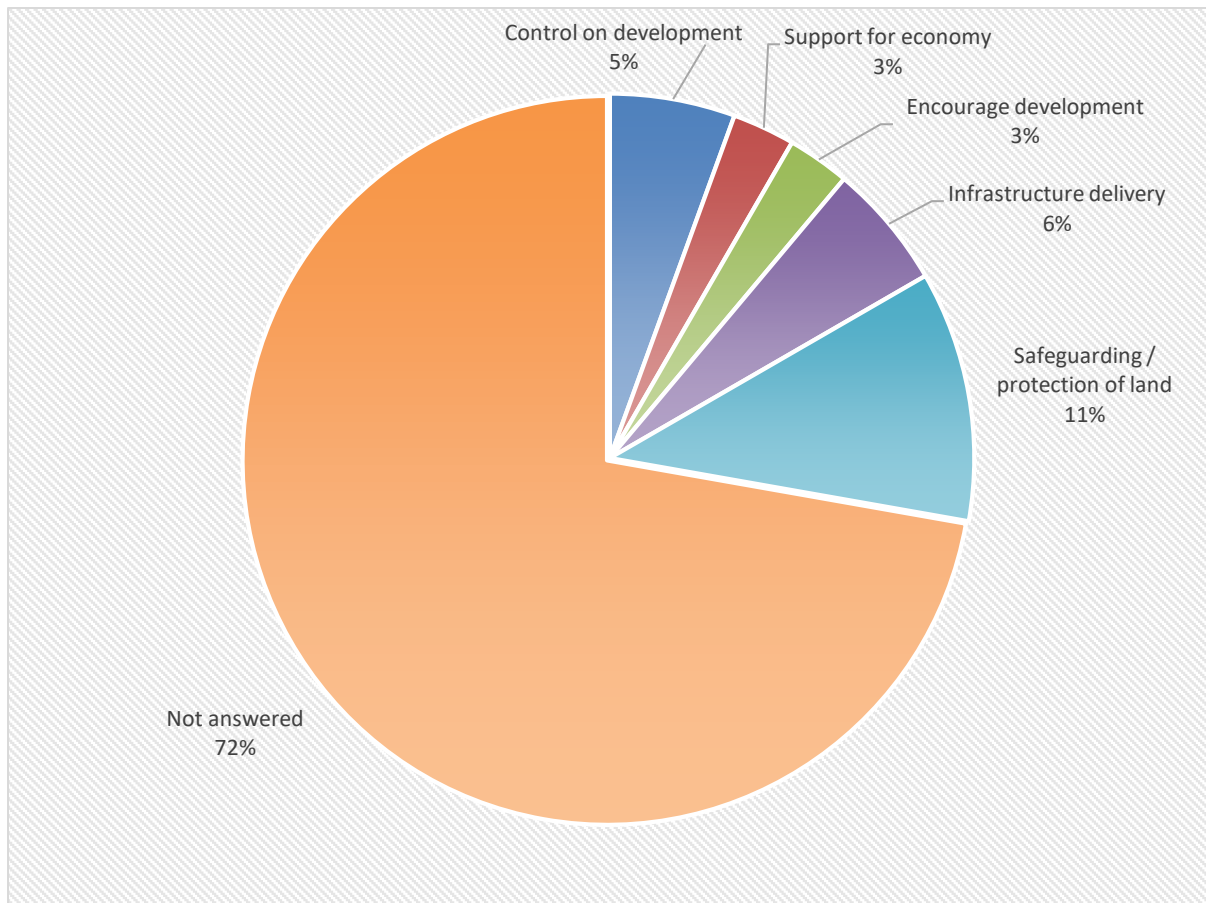
In relation to **housing**, one comment did not want to see new housing to the east and south of Ottery St Mary, on comment raised concern about restrictions on building a limited number of small properties for family in Alfington and in the area classed as 'countryside' in planning terms and queried where the policies for helping local people to stay in the villages was; one comment requested the inclusion of a property in West Hill in the built up area boundary.

A couple of comments were received in respect of the **economy** which suggested that this theme was currently weak in the suggested Neighbourhood Plan objectives and policy themes, one respondent to know what was in the Neighbourhood Plan in respect of job opportunities while another wanted more clarity as they were unsure how usable they are in the current vague state. This same comment stated 'Never quite sure about the sense of prioritising public loos and TIC facilities over projects that could improve facilities for young people, securing an economic future for Ottery'. Suggestions for ways to optimise existing assets for tourism were given by another respondent.

**Question 3: The boards identify policy themes and projects for the Neighbourhood Plan. Are there any additional or different policy theme, projects or specific planning issues that you would like to see included in the Neighbourhood Plan?**

Only 10 respondents gave an answer to this question. The pie chart in Figure 3 shows the themes to which the responses related. Once again there were generalised comments and concerns given in respect of the existing context of the Parish as well as suggestions specifically responding to the question.

**Figure 3: Responses by theme to Question 3**



In respect of safeguarding/protection of land, comments suggested inclusion of protection for the Goyle through town and the ancient field system in the Gerway area. There was a query in respect of whether prime agricultural land is properly safeguarded against future loss to building. Concern was raised in respect of increased flood risk as a result of loss of farmland.

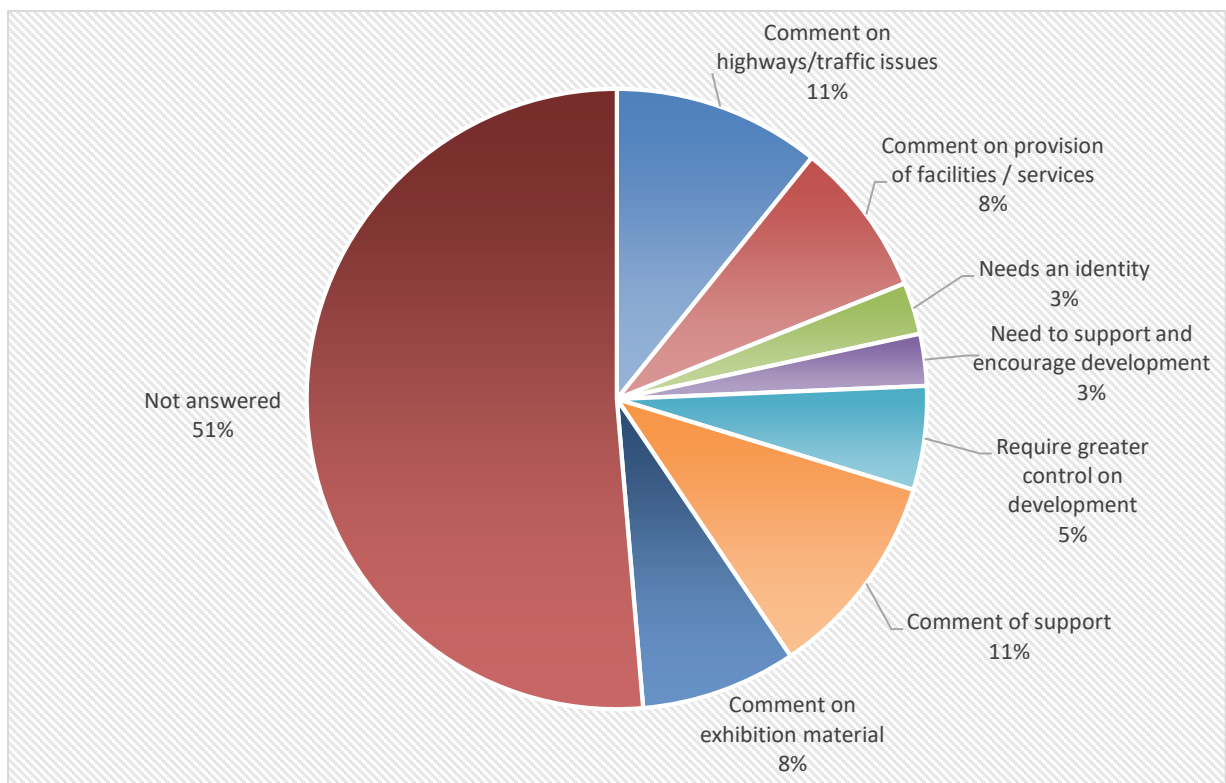
In terms of controlling development, one comment simply expressed the desire for no more new housing. Another expressed concern regarding the density of housing in West Hill and the fact that large houses are being built very close together with little or no gardens.

More clarification was requested in respect of how the neighbourhood plan would meet infrastructure needs as it was considered that not much information had been given on how these needs were to be met. One respondent suggested that proposals for a swimming pool are not appropriate for a small population and catchment area, but did consider that it was excellent to improve cycle and footpath routes.

#### **Question 4: Space for any other general comments**

Approximately half of the respondents provided a response in this space for general comments. Comments picked up on the general themes raised in relation to the preceding questions as outlined above.

**Figure 4: Responses by theme to Question 4**



The need for traffic calming measures on Sidmouth/Tip Hill Road was suggested. Concerns were expressed in relation to large haulage vehicles using the rural narrow roads.

In terms of provision of services and facilities the suggestion for a café was raised, while another comment reiterated the desire to retain the hospital use and investigate another surgery and school feasibilities.

The comment seeking development to be supported and encouraged wanted to see the Neighbourhood Plan include a specific policy for parents to be allowed to build properties for their children.

In addition to the above, a number of responses were comments of support in relation to the progress of the Plan and the exhibition itself, whilst some comments made comments on the exhibition materials used.