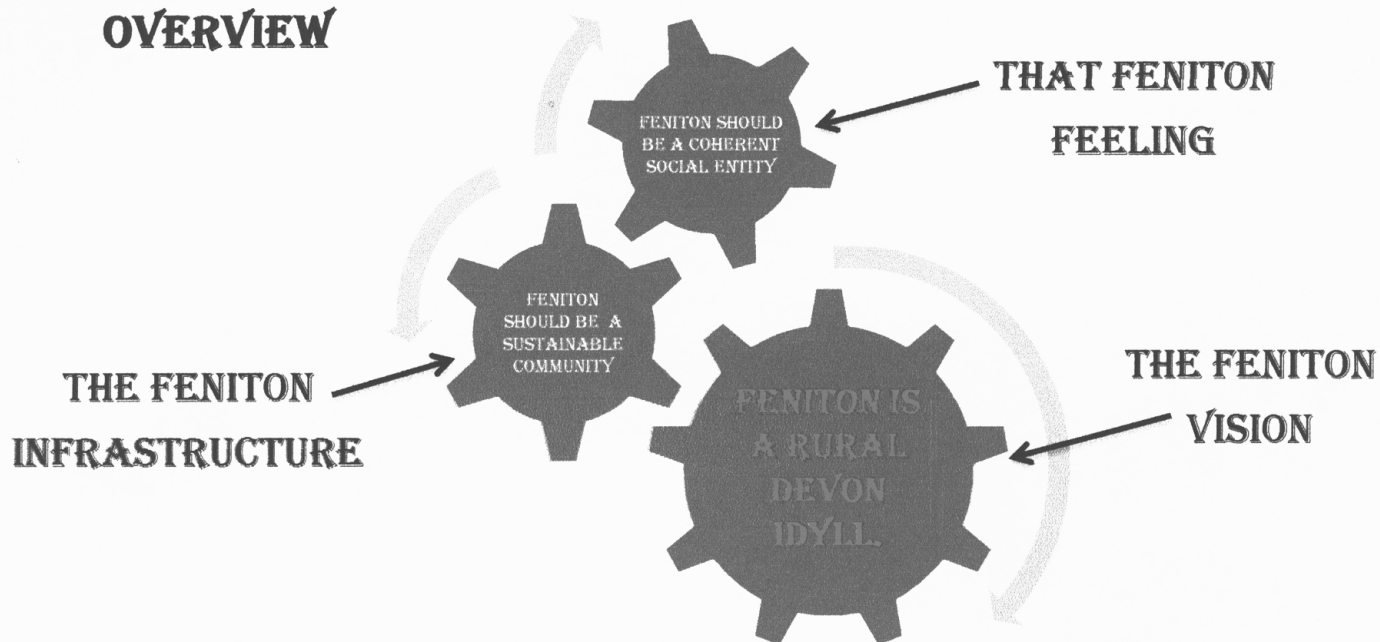


# FENITON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

## THE FENITON OVERVIEW



THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS A WORK IN PROGRESS AND IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

DOCUMENT PREPARED ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF MARCH 2015.

## **INTRODUCTION.**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of January an open event was held in the village hall at Feniton. The exhibition and presentation had three objectives. Firstly it was undertaken in order to commence a dialogue with the community concerning the future of Feniton as a village. Secondly the event was aimed at raising the profile of the Feniton Neighbourhood **Plan within the** community. Finally the event was used as a vehicle that brought **members of the steering** group together in a joint venture and encouraged them to produce **a tangible outcome.**

The steering group contributed greatly to the success of the event in **that they produced visual and technical information that engaged the attendees.** Further the group members **undertook conversations with the attendees in an effort to encourage** exchanges of views. **Two interventions were employed in an effort to gather data from the participants.** Firstly **Post-it-notes were offered to participants who were asked, in their own words, to express their ideal vision of a future Feniton.** Secondly, **participants were asked to record their opinions concerning the facilities that are offered within and around the village.** The latter exercise used A4 sheets printed with 8 headings.

The Post-it-note exercise was very successful in that it gave a specific image of what the participants considered to be an idealised Feniton culture or environment. The A4 exercise produced a considerable amount of rich data which will eventually be used to develop a research model. The research model will be interrogated through the use of a questionnaire that will be distributed to all the households in the community of Feniton.

The following document has been prepared in order to record the **output from the post-it-note** exercise. It will be seen that the community is of the opinion **that Feniton needs to remain a Devon village wedded to the environment but with a high level of connectivity to a sustainable future.** To a certain extent this view of the future implies **that change is inevitable but change should only occur at a pace and in a form that is acceptable to the Feniton community at large.**

Further exercises are planned in respect of initial data gathering and this report should be seen as both an outline for data gathering and as an initial statement of the communities vision of the future of Feniton.

**FENITON**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**  
**INFORMATION FROM STICKY NOTES**  
**JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2015**

The following information is extracted from information provided by those who wrote their vision for the future of the village on coloured sticky notes. As this event was held on a Tuesday afternoon, most of the attendees were retired people. A similar event for the younger age groups is required.

They were asked to briefly write a sentence or two on how they would like Feniton to be described in 15 years' time; however, the exercise veered somewhat off course, but the information is still of value and is listed below.

Their responses make it evident that the people overwhelmingly want the village to remain a small cohesive, rural and peaceful community, yet, to some extent, want the conveniences that a town would provide. They perhaps need to decide which takes priority as their view of the future of Feniton is rather contradictory. Should this be mentioned prior to circulating further questionnaires?

## **STATISTICS**

### **36 sticky responses.**

Just over 36.1% of the responders solely state that their prime priority is that the village remains a separate, rural, 'green' and peaceful community and therefore not absorbed into Exeter's encroaching borders. The responders are concerned that further development would change the essential characteristics of the village by destroying a centuries old rural community. People are firmly opposed to Feniton becoming a dormitory settlement for the city.

A further four of the responders make reference to their desire that the village retains its green spaces and that any future building only used 'brown' field sites.

**A further eight responders state that they do not want more building or state that they want the village to retain its present character and by implication are opposed to further mass building that would destroy both the 'social cohesion' of Feniton and its rural character. The total therefore that state that they wish that the village retains its present character as a green, small and rural community or who do so by implication is 69.4%. No**

responder stated that they wished for further mass building or that the village should change its present character.

### Examples of statements:

Keep Feniton: *a rural retreat; a rural Devon idyll; a green vibrant community; a green and pleasant place to live; to stay as a village, not a town; keep a farming and green backdrop; keep Feniton green and rural; keep Feniton rural, green and peaceful; no building on green fields.*

As one responder writes:

*Feniton the place to be,  
Healthy, happy, a place of ease.  
A place of fields with views that are free,  
But keep it that way  
Oh yes please!*

Four of the thirty-six responders acknowledge that further development is inevitable and all of them state that the village lacks better quality three-, four- and five bedroom houses. One states that larger houses with a granny annex are required. As one responder states: *'there is a need for larger houses for people living here to move up to.....currently they have to move away'.*

A recurrent theme has been the need for local help for the disabled **and** **chronical ill**. **Four of the 36** state that a voluntary help scheme for the sick and elderly is **needed**. **Responders** state: *'more help for the elderly'; need more voluntary help for elderly in village'; 'help for older people and their carers'; 'Feniton needs a Help Scheme for the housebound- i.e. the chronically sick younger people and the elderly'.*

Two responders request that there should be designated dog areas or walks. As one person emphasises, dogs are an important part of the lives of many Feniton families and deserve their own designated areas.

Two refer to the need for a better quality play park for children and one highlights the need for vehicular access to the youth centre. One responder emphasises that there needs to be more provision for the youth of Feniton.

Two of the responders make reference to the inadequate state of the roads and pavements and one state that they have never, in their experience, been in a worse state. One

responder requests there should be dropped pavements and better surfaces for the disabled.

One responder highlights the need for a new cemetery and also states that the village needs a place for 'reflection'.

## **SUMMARY**

Peoples' overwhelming concern is that Feniton remains a rural, green and peaceful community with no further mass development. Those who state that they recognise that there will be future building unanimously observe that better quality and larger houses are required as there are few available in the village and those who require them have to leave the village. Can people locate areas for building?

A recurring theme is the need for a voluntary Help Scheme to be restarted in the village the younger chronically ill and the elderly.

A few mention the need for better playground provision for the children.

Others mention that dogs are an important part of family life and that they require designated facilities.

Concern about the state of the pavements and the need for dropped pavements for wheelchairs.

The need for a larger cemetery was raised. Where could this be located?

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE QUESTIONNAIRES BASED ON THE ABOVE ANALYSIS**

Determine peoples' priorities: small development and poorer facilities **and conveniences** or mass development and more frequent transport links and conveniences. The caveat here is that mass development may not result in better facilities as promises are broken.

Given that some development is inevitable what type of housing do they consider is most needed in the village?

There is clear concern regarding the needs of the housebound of all ages. How could they be catered for?

Where do people envisage that a designated dog-walking area could be located? Do we actually need one in a rural area?