

Watlington Neighbourhood Plan

September 2014 Newsletter



Our Community - Our Plan

Watlington Neighbourhood Plan Core
Committee

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Progress

TRAFFIC SURVEY

Much work has recently been put into planning a traffic survey. The appointed traffic consultants, TPP, have designed the exercise and have briefed volunteers (largely provided by WatNext) on the manual count.

There will be a combination of manual and automatic counting over a number of days at various locations around the town focussing on the main roads and identifying vehicle by type. The data will then be collected and analysed by TPP and initial findings reported back to the council and the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) committee. The results will be a key element in formulating where to put the next housing developments and the consequent impact on traffic volumes.

Following on from this exercise a further survey is being suggested with the involvement of Oxfordshire County Council and encompassing neighbouring communities. By definition this survey will be outside the area covered by our NP and may not be completed within the desired timescale, however the NP team will support the exercise and keep abreast of developments.

OTHER SURVEYS

Aside from the traffic survey a questionnaire has been sent to landowners inviting comment on each of the potential housing sites identified. It is of course not possible at this stage to be precise regarding all sites that may come on to the market in the next 20 years or so however those available in the shorter term should be identifiable and we hope landowners will respond with comments.

The third key area affecting housing and traffic is the needs of the businesses, both retail and light industrial. An exercise is currently being undertaken to try to ascertain what developments/facilities business owners see as necessary to enhance business opportunity in the town and immediate area.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A series of "Community Outreach" events are being planned for early October with the aim of encouraging participation and ideas for the development of the town. Initially these will be run on a trial basis in workshop format, giving the attendees full freedom to express their ideas and use local maps to identify options for traffic flow, housing sites, business and leisure development etc. The sessions will be run three times: during a weekday, a weekday evening and a weekend. Depending the attendance and level of involvement the format may be tuned for a subsequent round of similar sessions later in the year.



In addition to these workshops the main event being planned currently is "Consultation 2". See below for more information.

FUNDING

A grant of £7,000 has been made by Locality from the Community Development Fund towards the costs of running the surveys described above.

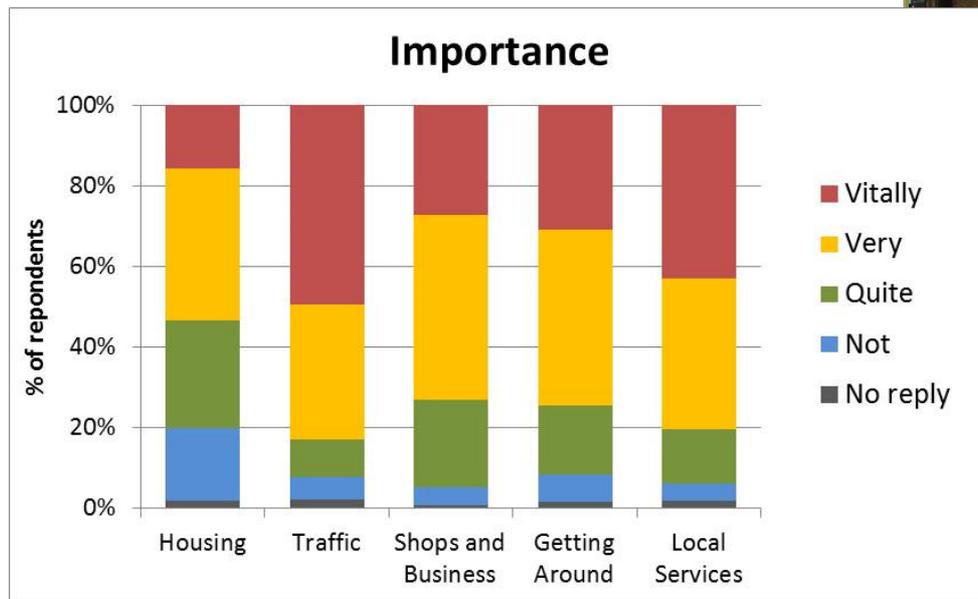
Consultation 2 - November

The first consultation was held early this year to identify the issues of concern to the Watlington community. A second consultation is now being planned to start early November, the objective being to identify and prioritise options to resolve the issues. The result will be an agreed Vision statement for the town supported by a series of development objectives.

The consultation is likely to run for 6 weeks after which the feedback will be collated and presented as results in publications such as the Watlington Times and this newsletter. The detailed timetable, eg in terms of public events and publication of results, will be made available at a later date.

Once the feedback from this consultation is assessed further work will be done by the NP committee to write up the policies required to achieve the agreed objectives. The timetable thereafter is a third and final consultation on the final plan before submission to an Examiner and then to a Referendum. The whole process is largely dictated by government regulation and, if followed and a successful Referendum follows, the plan becomes a legally-binding document.

By way of reminder the results of Consultation 1 are available on the website and are shown again below (www.watlingtonnp.org.uk).



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