

Ixworth NPWG: - Report on the Consultation on Sites to be Included in the NP (May 2021)

Disclaimer

This analysis of the results of a consultation on site allocations to be included in the Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Neighbourhood plan has been prepared by the Vice Chairman of the NPWG. At no time during the analysis of the responses obtained was any of the information made available to other members of the Working Group or to the General Public. Dr Stephen Mann (Vice Chairman) is a Chartered Biologist who has worked on Statistical Analysis for Companies and Governments. This document is prepared, within the strict requirements of Chartered Institutes.

Introduction

Early in 2020 The working group took a decision to include potential site allocations as part of the Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan. An immediate advertisement request for potential site allocation resulted in 7 sites being put forward by their owners.

A “drop in” event was then convened in the Village Hall where the 7 sites were displayed. Those visiting the event were encouraged to leave their comments in writing. These responses which were archived following an extraction analysis is presented in Table 1. No enumeration of responses was available while site descriptions were not presented in advance.

Table 1 The interpreted written responses to all submitted sites from the drop in event.

Potential allocation site	Positive	Negative	Don't Know
Langridge	26	5	3
Dairy Farm	14	0	2
Dairy Farm Buildings	15	0	0
Total Dairy Farm & Langridge	55	5	5
Abbey Farm	0	18	0
Abbey Farmland	3	13	5
Cyder House	18	4	0
Ixworth Thorpe Green Lane	6	5	0
Ixworth Thorpe Thetford Road	1	0	1

At this time (May 2020) the UK was struck by Covid 19. A number of the working group resigned but in June the NPWG was reconvened again as a Working Group of the Parish Council which included Parish Councillors and Village Residents.

It was felt that the earlier drop-in consultation left a large number of villagers, (those who did not attend the drop-in), in ignorance of the number and situation of the sites under consideration. Taking the tone from the initial drop-in responses the WG decided to undertake a further consultation on the basis that two sites would be included in the plan. These were, 1. a combination of the Langridge and

Dairy Farm sites and 2. a site at the Cyder House in the old village which is situated in the conservation area. It was also decided that there would be a consultation on a settlement boundary which would facilitate infill development in Ixworth Thorpe.

The consultation was to be threefold: -

- 1 A description of the proposals (four A4) pages in the Village Newsletter and a tear off section with the three options plus an opportunity to comment in writing was included. A ballot receptacle was placed in the Village Shop, an opportunity for email responses and a Survey Monkey online response opportunity were the means of communication.
- 2 A walk in demonstration with 9 major display boards in the Village Hall following strict covid regulations with a similar recording options and comments were part of the presentation. The information given was an expansion of the information in the Village News Letter.
- 3 An online zoom presentation in the form of a lecture and containing the expanded information and an opportunity to respond and comment on survey monkey was again included.

The Scheduling of these three section was to some extent disrupted by the untimely death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. However, finally consultation was achieved ending on the 24th May 2021 in which: -

- 1 Every resident in the two villages received a description of the sites as part of the locally produced Ixworth Newsletter see appendix 1.
2. Greater detail was given in a poster demonstration in the Village Hall for those who expressed a wish to attend
3. Greater detail was also given in a Zoom presentation online
4. Resident responses were encouraged by a tear off response request in the Ixworth Newsletter and a ballot box in the Village Shop while an email address was made available for additional comments
5. A further hard copy request form enabled a response from those attending the presentation in the Village Hall
- 6 A Survey Monkey online response opportunity for all interested parties in addition to those attending events.

It can be argued that in ensuring everyone was informed and had an opportunity to respond the duplicate submissions could have been encouraged. This does not appear to have happened. Where duplicates were identified (2) only one response was recorded in the data.

Results

The results are given in Tables 2 and 3. The three sets of responses are presented as a collation of the responses to each of the presentations. That is; the Village Newsletter, the presentation in the Village Hall and the responses to the online presentation. Comments and responses to the NPWG/PC email address were also included when appropriate. While comments on other issues not directly related to the consultation were also recorded and reported below. It was perhaps disappointing that there were not more attendees but overall there were more than 221 responses recorded.

It was noted that in some cases responses appeared to be on a household basis rather than that of individuals. Where this was clear the number of people was recorded appropriately.

Table 2 Summary of the opinions (for and against inclusion in the NP) expressed in response to the three principle questions.

	Landgridge and Dairy Farm			Cyder House		
	Y	N	DK	Y	N	DK
Village Hall	10	2	0	12	0	0
Ballot box	13	1	2	13	1	2
Email	9	4	0	12	0	1
Survey Monkey	27	10	2	42	6	1
Totals	59	17	4	79	7	4
Number of Opinions	80			90		
Percentage	74	21	5	88	8	4

For Ixworth Thorpe the proposal to request a settlement boundary was divided with 27 in favour (Table 3) and 24 against. However, it has to be noted that of those in favour 56% were from Ixworth while there were none against from Ixworth Thorpe.

Table 3 Responses to Ixworth Thorpe Question (recommendation for Including a Settlement Boundary for Ixworth Thorpe)

Total Yes	Yes from Ixworth Thorpe	Yes from Ixworth	Total No	No from Ixworth Thorpe	No From Ixworth
27	15	12	24	0	24

Other responses

In addition to the three major items on which the villagers were being consulted for inclusion in the Plan there were a number of additional written concerns. Although these concerns are covered by other sections of the draft plan they were difficult to enumerate these have, for completeness, been summarised here.

1. There were several comments in support of linking the Langridge Dairy Farm proposal to the provision of a new Village Hall on the Langridge site. The was one adverse comment.

2. There were numerous comments linking approval of the Langridge site to the provision of a new Village Hall as well as other facilities such as foot paths and retail outlets
3. There were several comments expressing the need to link any development with additional facilities for the village (e.g. sport facilities etc.)
4. The state of traffic in the village remain a major concern to residents.
5. All comments referred in one way or another to the need for adequate infrastructure expressing the importance of provision of health facilities, social facilities, green spaces and road improvements).

Comments and results

The Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman of the NPWG have asked for it to be recorded that their opinions were not put forward and therefore not recorded as part of the consultation.

Site allocation results

The results from the specific items put forward in table 2 are clear there is an overwhelming majority in favour of the inclusion of the Combined Dairy Farm Langridge site and the Cyder House site in the Neighbourhood Plan.

There is little need to do statistical analysis on such a result but it is probably worth commenting on the sampling method and its potential effect on the results. To give more detailed information to the village as a whole the risk is that we have gleaned comments principally from those who are actively interested. However, judging by common experience for other information consultation exercises and since every village household received the necessary information it is clear there is no ground swell of opposition to the inclusion of any of the three proposals. Each of which will ultimately be tested by a one person one vote plebiscite.

Comments outside specific proposals

It is perhaps worthy of note that amongst those accepting the Langridge Dairy Farm site there was a strong trend of comments that acceptance of the proposals would be dependent on a high quality development and the promised social facilities and infrastructure.

Of other comments given above all these are already covered in the draft plan.

In the case of the Settlement Boundary in Ixworth Thorpe the opinion is clearly divided but it must be said that of the responses in favour of a SB 75% came from Ixworth Thorpe whilst those opposing it all came from Ixworth itself.

Conclusion

It is reasonable to suggest that all three proposals Langridge Dairy Farm, Cyder House and Settlement Boundary may be included in the plan and presented to the appropriate authorities and later to the residents in a larger plebiscite.

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