

# Great Chesterford Village Plan 2014

Questionnaire Results

# Introduction

- A Village Plan aims to present the views of our community and set out an action plan for potential improvements.
- Parish Council initiative in early 2013, delivered by independent group  
- Jon Beard, Colin Day, Henri Stevenson, Julie Williams
- Funded by the Rural Community Council for Essex, Essex Rural Trust and Great Chesterford Parish Council
- Questionnaires issued and collected in Autumn 2013
- Results analysed in Winter 2013-14.

# The Response

- Approximately 50% response rate by household
- Completed by 493 respondents

Most important reasons for living in GC:

- Surrounding countryside
- Transport links
- Attractiveness of village

# Roads and Transport

- Support for reducing speed limits
- ..and for improving pavements
- Support for improving or introducing foot and cycle ways along main roads
- Mixed views on whether on-street parking causes problems
- Some support for street lighting in **some** areas for the full night period
- Three quarters of respondents use the Great Chesterford railway service
- Over three quarters said that they never / hardly ever use the bus services

# Environment, Recreation and Leisure

- Dog fouling was strongly emphasised as an issue in the written comments.
- Strong support for provision of allotments; however the number interested in leasing an allotment significantly lower
- Support for planting fruit trees, trees and hedgerows
- Large majority visit the Steam Up and are content with it; almost half of respondents thought there was scope for additional events in the village
- There was clear support for making more of village history and heritage
- Over 100 people are prepared to join a litter picking team and provide support for ad-hoc projects

# Services and Facilities

- Most used facilities cited as:
  - The Post Office
  - The pubs
  - The GP surgeries
  - The village shop
- Significant interest in the idea of establishing a monthly market
- Green waste skip remains popular, used at least monthly by almost half of respondents

# Crime and Safety

- A significant majority think that Great Chesterford is a safe place to live
- By far the single biggest concern was cold calling
- There was support for better or more visible policing and a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

# Education

- Strong support for additional Pre-School sessions and for the Pre-School to have its own permanent dedicated facility
- Respondents felt that the school and community interacted well
- A small majority felt that it was important that the school remained on its current site.
- More support for a change of site in next 15 years if the school expanded (those opposed felt that the existing site could be redeveloped)



# Communications and Democracy

- Almost all of villagers read The Broadsheet always or sometimes and rate it good or very good
- Half of respondents use of the Chesterfords website
- Most respondents find out about the work of the Parish Council from The Broadsheet
- Just over half of respondents felt that the parish council communicated well with villagers, and a greater proportion felt well informed about its work.
- A smaller number were negative about communication, but many more felt that they were not well-informed

# Housing and Development

- Over half of respondents felt that there should be no further construction in Great Chesterford beyond the 100 dwellings already allocated
- However a large minority would accept up to 100 additional dwellings
- There was strong support for any future provision to be affordable and for local people
- There seemed to be significant interest in provision for residents to be able to downsize within the village
- Of those who expressed a view, a large majority supported the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Great Chesterford

# And Finally...

- Thank you for your support and input
- Number of ideas suggested to solve issues
- PC response
- Final plan produced later in year
- Working group to take forward action plan