

Cossall Parish Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

In 2019, residents were invited to complete a questionnaire which was delivered to every household in Cossall Parish. The questionnaires could be returned to drop-off points throughout the parish or collected. They could also be completed online.

There was an excellent response, with 36% of households completing the questionnaire across the whole parish. Males and females were equally represented, and respondents fell into a variety of age groups. 94% of respondents provided additional supporting comments at various points in the questionnaire, which has really helped the Steering Group gain a good understanding of what it is that residents feel is important to preserve and protect in Cossall Parish, together with changes or improvements they would like to see.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a work in progress, and the Steering Group would like to engage with residents throughout every step of the way to ensure that when completed, it fully represents the views of the community and their vision for the parish for the next decade and beyond. Residents are welcome to contact us at any time to put forward views, concerns, or suggestions on any aspect of living in Cossall at www.cossallparishcouncil.co.uk

Results from the Questionnaire

The information provided in the questionnaire has helped to guide the Plan and to formulate emerging policies. The following information provides an overview of the results. In order to preserve anonymity, we have not included individual comments, but these have been carefully analysed to provide us with the objectives that will shape the Plan going forward.

FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

As part of Broxtowe Borough Council's Local Plan Part 2 (2018-2028), a site has been allocated for the development of 250 houses on land between Newtons Lane, Cossall; Park Hill, Awsworth and the Shilo Way Bypass. Up to 50 houses on the new development will be built in Cossall Parish.

Residents' views were sought on this, and any future development.

Below is the type of housing residents' thought was most needed to meet present and future need. Residents had the option to tick all that applied.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 – 2 bedrooms suitable as starter or retirement homes | 74% |
| 3 bedroom family homes | 59% |
| 4 bedroom family homes | 38% |
| 5 bedroom family homes | 10% |

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Apartments/Flats | 16% |
| Affordable housing | 38% |
| Other (please state) | 21% |

Of those who selected 'other,' 47% suggested accommodation appropriate for the elderly and/or disabled, while a further 29% questioned the need for any new housing. The remainder commented on the need for affordable housing, and the importance of new developments being in keeping with existing properties.

Residents were asked to indicate how important each of six factors were to them when considering future developments, using a five-point scale of 'not at all important' to 'very important'. The table below shows the spread of ratings each factor received.

| | Not at all important | Slightly important | Important | Fairly important | Very important |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| Adequate off-street parking | 1% | 4% | 12% | 12% | 71% |
| Adequate on street parking | 19% | 9% | 27% | 11% | 35% |
| Properties are in keeping with the character of the area | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 99% |
| Good road network to/from properties to cope with increased traffic and provide good access for emergency services vehicles | 1% | 2% | 5% | 1% | 90% |
| Additional amenities and recreational facilities provided to support increase in the number of residents | 2% | 11% | 12% | 11% | 63% |
| Provision of local school places to meet increased demand | 4% | 1% | 10% | 5% | 80% |

The only factor to receive no ratings lower than 'fairly important' was 'Properties are in keeping with the character of the area', indicating that this is a high priority for residents. This was closely followed by 'A good road network to and from properties', with 92% of respondents rating it as at least fairly important.

Of least importance to residents was adequate on-street parking, with 28% of respondents considering it either not at all important, or only slightly important. Instead, residents indicated a strong preference for adequate off-street parking, which 83% considered at least fairly important and only 5% considered slightly important or not at all important.

'Provision of local school places' received a very similar spread of ratings to off-street parking and was considered at least fairly important by 85% of respondents. 'Additional amenities and recreational facilities' were considered somewhat less important overall, but still at least fairly important by 74% of respondents.

Residents also had the opportunity to provide any comments or concerns they had about the proposed new development, and any future development in Cossall Parish. Detailed comments were given by 54% of participants, who raised the following key issues.

- The need for improved infrastructure to cope with an increase in the population.
- Concerns about traffic, public transport, limited facilities, and the access route to the new development. The consensus is that this should be from Shilo Way Bypass and not Newtons Lane due to its unsuitability and safety concerns.
- Provision of sufficient school places for local children.
- Protecting the green belt from future development.
- New builds to be energy efficient and in keeping with surrounding properties and the character of the area.
- Protecting wildlife habitats, the environment, green spaces and maintaining a village feel.

These responses have fed into the objectives below, or the objectives in other sections of the Plan.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To conserve Cossall's identity, its distinctive local features and landscape, policies will ensure that any new development should respect the size, scale and character of the existing built environment.
- New homes should meet the needs of all sections of the community and especially first-time buyers and people looking to downsize or find suitable retirement accommodation.
- New properties should be in keeping with the surrounding area and have adequate off-street parking.
- New housing must be supported by a good road network to/from any new development to cope with increased traffic.
- Newtons Lane should not be used as an access road to the proposed new development due to the unsuitability of the road to carry an increase in traffic, parking issues, and serious safety concerns.

- Open views and the distinctive layout of the parish should be protected to retain a small rural community feel.
- New housing should embrace green technology, be energy efficient, of high quality, and meet sustainability standards.
- Applications for development should provide an assessment of their potential impact on the environment.
- Engage with Nottinghamshire County Council, Awsworth Primary and Nursery School and East Midlands Education Trust (EMET) to raise awareness of maintaining sufficient places for children to attend their local school.

Cossall Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have vigorously opposed Newtons Lane being used as an access route to the proposed new development in all consultation processes.

TRAFFIC

Residents were asked if they had any comments or concerns about traffic flow or parking in Cossall Parish and to provide details. 64% of participants shared their concerns, highlighting serious traffic related issues across the whole of Cossall Parish.

The concerns can be summarised as follows:

- Volume of traffic which particularly affects the 'through roads' in the Parish including Awsworth Lane, and Church Lane. This is especially noticeable when commuters travel to and from work in the mornings and evenings when roads through Cossall are used as a shortcut to travel to other areas.
- Increase in the number of commercial vehicles/ heavy goods vehicles exceeding the weight limit.
- Speeding motorists.
- Off-road bikers.
- Safety of pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, motorists and pets if Newtons Lane were to become an access road to the proposed new housing development due to an increase in traffic on a road unsuitable to carry it. Residents throughout Cossall expressed concern and stated Newtons Lane should not be used as an access road to the proposed new development referred to as 'Land West of Awsworth inside the bypass.'
- Safety concerns due to an increase in the volume of traffic and speeding motorists were expressed by residents throughout Cossall Parish.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To work with planners to improve road safety for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
- Discourage speeding, illegal off-road bikers and HGVs not observing the weight restrictions on Awsworth Lane and Church Lane.

There is an ongoing joint initiative between Cossall, Awsworth and Trowell Parish Councils to address problems caused by illegal off-road bikers.

PARKING

Residents' concerns focussed largely on two roads in Cossall Parish, Newtons Lane and Church Lane, but for different reasons.

- Not enough parking when attending large events at St Catherine's Church and the Community Hall/Old School Room on Church Lane.
- Parking on one side of Newtons Lane already makes it a single carriageway, therefore it is absolutely necessary Newtons Lane should not be an access road to the new development.
- Exit from Newtons Lane onto The Lane/Awsworth Lane is dangerous due to cars parked on The Lane reducing visibility when turning right.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To encourage safe parking and ensure any new developments have sufficient safe vehicle parking.
- To ensure Newtons Lane remains a safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motorists.
- To make greater use of signage when special events take place and encourage visitors to use the Community Hall/Old School Room car park whenever possible to minimise congestion and maintain safety.

TRANSPORT

Residents were asked if public transport in Cossall Parish met their needs.

The response was Yes 33% No 52% No opinion 15%

Residents were then given the opportunity to provide suggestions for improvements to public transport, which all 'No' respondents did, alongside 19% of those who selected 'Yes'

or 'No opinion'. These respondents typically indicated that a car was their primary means of transport, but expressed they do feel the public transport facilities are limited. When residents were asked whether they own, or have access to a car in their household 97% responded 'Yes' and 3% 'No'.

Concerns expressed about transport focussed on the bus service in Cossall. These can be summarised as follows:

- Frequency of service which does not operate in the evenings or on Sunday.
- Requires a change of buses to connect to Nottingham or Derby.
- Does not connect with the tram service at Phoenix Park.
- Long walk to reach a bus stop for many Cossall residents.
- Inadequate service leads to a reliance on private means of transport.
- Potential to lead to social isolation for some residents.

With the exception of the minimal bus service, residents largely see Cossall as well-situated for commuting, with 76% selecting both its proximity to Ilkeston station and commuting links to the M1, Nottingham, Derby and the East Midlands airport as something they like about living in Cossall.

Improvements to the bus service could therefore substantially help the community by ensuring those who do not drive are not significantly disadvantaged in their ability to reach nearby towns and facilities which are otherwise very accessible.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Establish the needs of residents and work with transport providers to deliver a more flexible and viable seven day/evening service.
- Encourage the use of Ilkeston Station.

PARISH BOUNDARIES

A section on parish boundaries was included in the questionnaire to seek residents' views on a proposal by Awsworth Parish Council to re-draw neighbouring parish boundaries. This would effectively see properties and land on Newtons Lane, The Glebe and possibly the northern part of Awsworth Lane, which are currently in Cossall Parish, become part of Awsworth Parish.

Following an explanation of this proposal, residents were asked:

Are you in favour of land and properties which are currently in Cossall Parish, remaining in Cossall Parish?

The results were:

Yes 92% No 2% No opinion 5% Box not ticked 1%

Residents had the opportunity to provide any comments or concerns they had about the proposal and 54% responded.

Very strong opposition was expressed to re-drawing the boundary with Awwsworth by the majority of respondents. Others referred to not being able to see any benefit for Cossall residents who would be affected by the proposed boundary changes. Respondents said they had bought their properties because they were in Cossall and stressed the importance of Cossall maintaining its distinct identity and not being consumed by Awwsworth Parish. The objectives below reflect the overwhelming response to maintain the present boundaries.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the distinct identity of Cossall Parish is preserved by maintaining the parish boundaries.
- Cossall Parish Council will always engage co-operatively, constructively, and respectfully with neighbouring parishes and share joint initiatives for the mutual benefit of residents in all the neighbouring parishes.
- Cossall Parish Council will vigorously oppose any attempt by a neighbouring parish to change the parish boundaries to acquire land and properties in Cossall Parish.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Residents were asked if there were any facilities they would like to see that would enhance their experience of living in Cossall. A number of participants expressed concerns about the impact a growing population would have on local facilities and services when asked about potential future housing developments.

- Residents enjoyed the social events at the Community Hall/Old School Room and welcomed more of these.
- Residents thought additional amenities and facilities such as a shop and health services may be needed to support the increase in the population. Other suggestions included further uses for Millennium Park and the need for an improved public transport service.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To preserve and where possible enhance existing facilities and services including the social facilities and events provided by Cossall Parish Council, Cossall Community Chest and St Catherine's Church.
- To continue to support the elderly and lonely through the initiative introduced by Cossall Parish Council and the provision of a luncheon group organised by St Catherine's.
- To encourage the use of the Community Hall/Old School Room for private hire and by clubs, groups, and societies, and to support the voluntary and community sector in providing services for the wellbeing of the community.
- Seek to improve the provision of better communication links, including access to faster broadband and mobile signal strength, including high speed Fibre To The Premises (FTTP).

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Participants were asked what they like about living in Cossall Parish, with the opportunity to select from fourteen options, and/or provide their own answer.

The five most popular options from the list all related to the natural environment and were selected by over 90% of participants, reflecting just how important it is to residents. The percentage of respondents who selected each natural environment option is shown below, while six of the remaining options are discussed under 'Heritage and Community, and two under 'Transport'.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Surrounding open countryside, green spaces and open views | 99% |
| Footpaths and bridleways through the countryside and along the canal | 97% |
| Surrounding Greenbelt | 92% |
| Quiet and peaceful | 85% |
| Hedgerows, trees and verges | 92% |
| Local wildlife and habitats | 92% |

When providing their own answers, residents referred to the surrounding countryside as being tranquil, and a peaceful haven, where bridleways and footpaths provide endless opportunities to enjoy walks, open spaces, the Nottingham canal and wildlife, all on the doorstep. There was a sense of being miles from anywhere whilst having the benefit of

being able to access all the facilities of Nottingham and Derby, and closer to home the IKEA retail park in Giltbrook and the shops and facilities in Ilkeston.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To protect the surrounding landscape and greenbelt, the open views and green spaces.
- To maintain the natural environment for wildlife habitats, biodiversity, and recreation for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and nature lovers alike.

HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY

When asked what residents liked about living in Cossall Parish, of the choice of options not already covered in the 'Natural Environment' and 'Transport' sections, the following shows the percentage of respondents who selected each option.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Strong community spirit | 63% |
| Safe place to be | 76% |
| Links with D H Lawrence | 48% |
| Listed and historic buildings adding to the character of Cossall Parish | 72% |
| Relatively small community with friendly feel | 91% |
| Facilities and events for residents provided at Cossall Parish Community Hall | 67% |

While a significant number of respondents feel that they live within a friendly community, there is scope to further strengthen a strong community spirit and to ensure residents are aware of the facilities and events provided at the Community Hall.

Links with D H Lawrence was the only option to be selected by fewer than half of respondents, although it is unknown whether this is because residents do not value the links, or because they are unaware of them. There is also some overlap between the parish's links with D H Lawrence and one of its listed buildings, which 72% of respondents said they like.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To further protect the built and natural assets throughout the parish and to maintain the character of the parish, the vistas across the open countryside and open spaces, the historic buildings and the sense of belonging to a small semi-rural community.

- To foster a strong community spirit where everyone feels a sense of belonging.
- To ensure residents continue to be informed of the opportunities to get involved in activities taking place in the Parish through leaflets, newsletters, Cossall Parish Council website and the wearecossall Facebook page.