

THE WOODWALTON COMMUNITY LED PLAN 2015



**This report and its appendix may be accessed on the
Woodwalton Village Website, www.woodwaltonparishcouncil.btck.co.uk.**

Further hard copies may be obtained from the Steering Group

THE WOODWALTON COMMUNITY LED PLAN 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Community Led Plan was proposed as a means of collecting and collating the views of Parishioners as to their hopes and wishes for the future development of their Parish, which incorporates the village of Woodwalton, the hamlet of Church End and a number of outlying properties.

Six interested parishioners volunteered to form a Steering Group to carry out the planning to conduct the work necessary to establish what the parishioners considered were critical issues and to formulate plans and actions to address these points.

It was decided to prepare a Questionnaire to be offered to all residents over the age of 16, to seek their views on the issues, and to analyse as quantitative data those results, but also to ask for comments on those issues and any further points which they wished to raise and to summarise these qualitatively. The Questionnaires were hand-delivered to parishioners' houses by members of the steering group and where possible were given to the occupant by hand, or if there was no one present after a couple of visits the forms were left through the door. After about two weeks the homes were again visited and the forms collected. In the case of there being no response at the house after two visits the occupants were asked to deliver the completed forms to a Group member. From around 100 dwellings in the parish, responses were received from 94 individuals some of whom represented couples or family groups.

To encourage Parishioners to return their completed Questionnaires, the returned and completed forms were entered into a Prize Draw, with a first Prize of £25, a second Prize of £10, and a third Prize of £5, funded by the Parish Council. The draw took place at the Parish Council Meeting held on 30 September 2015 and the winners were duly notified and their prizes were delivered. The winners are listed on a notice on the Village Notice Board and on the Village Website.

After having received and analysed replies from those who participated, the Steering Group considered which items should be prioritised, and formulated an initial plan of action for those items.

Using the experience of other Parishes who have conducted similar exercises, we decided to use an acronym of SMART that sets out a good way of judging the actions needed and the best way forward.

- | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|---|--|
| S | - | Specific | - | Check that the item and action is well defined and clear. |
| M | - | Meaningful | - | Ensure that the action is valued and supported by the Community. |
| A | - | Appropriate | - | Ensure that the actions are based on evidence collected, and will make a difference to everyone locally. |
| R | - | Realistic | - | Ensure that the proposed action is realistic considering the skills, knowledge, resources and support available. |
| T | - | Timely | - | Plan to action in an acceptable timeframe. |

Proposed Action Points in this report are indicated in ***Bold Italic*** script, thus.

In the Appendix of this report are summarised both the data and the comments that resulted from the questionnaire; the highest percentage figures are also indicated in ***Bold Italic***.

SAFETY - (Appendix pages 7 and 8)

It was clear from the data and comments received that parishioners considered road safety a priority and to this end the ***Parish Council has already responded*** by making an application to the Cambridgeshire County Council Local Highways Improvement Initiative for funding in 2016/17. The submission includes data, which may be used as a benchmark for the future, drawn from an informal Traffic Survey carried out by the Steering Group. The proposal put forward asks for improvements to road signage throughout the village to emphasise the speed limits to drivers and to make them more aware that pedestrians also use the main carriageway. Should this application be successful the Parish Council will also discuss with Highways the possibility of having a footway under the railway bridge, now that Network Rail have replied to an enquiry from the Parish Council confirming that the verges under the railway bridge are the responsibility of the highways authority.

The above proposal will have minimal effect on the speed of vehicles travelling along Bridge Street. ***The Parish Council will encourage parishioners to engage in Community Speedwatch so that speeding in the village can be monitored locally.***

In the event that the Parish is unsuccessful in its bid for funding in 2016/17, then further evidence will be sought to support a revised application for funding in 2017/18

The majority of respondents considered the present street lighting levels to be adequate.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mains Drainage - (Appendix page 8)

The smells emanating from the existing drainage arrangements were frequently mentioned in the responses. The Parish Council are mindful of the concern of parishioners in Woodwalton village of the importance of mains drainage to obviate the unpleasant smells and potential health risks and are aware that of the 55% of respondents who expect to be connected to the mains drains some 50% regard this as a priority. Therefore the ***Parish Council continue to correspond with Anglian Water*** on a regular basis to urge them to resolve this problem and ensure a solution is found as soon as possible.

The Railway - (Appendix pages 8 and 9)

Parishioners mainly within sight and sound of the railway were keen to make sure that the vegetation on the embankment (denuded of all trees and shrubs in 2014, due to essential stabilisation work) was properly managed, with the failed new plantings being replaced, possibly with more evergreen varieties, to minimise the visual and audible impact of the main East Coast line on the village. It is largely

recognised that this visual impact is detrimental to the parish as a whole, not just to the families living close to the embankment. ***The Parish Council has commissioned a survey*** of the condition of the new plantings and will continue to follow up this issue with Network Rail. ***The majority of respondents were strongly opposed to further work of this sort being undertaken without prior consultation with the Parish Council, and this too will be communicated to Network Rail.***

Housing - (Appendix pages 9 and 10)

It was clear from the results of the questionnaire that a large proportion of the respondents would not be in favour of any further housing development (including affordable housing) of 3 or more units, or of a travellers' site, in the Parish. There was some support for small developments of 1 & 2 properties, provided that such development does not overfill any small plots and has sufficient off-road parking for 2 vehicles. ***It is strongly hoped that HDC Planning will consider the Parish's views should housing applications be made.***

The Village Hall - (Appendix page 10)

There was overwhelming support for greater use of the Village Hall, but not in its present condition and the suggestion was made that the ***Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee should commission a full structural survey*** before seeking grant capital or committing any funds to repairs. If the Village Hall has a future, funding will be sought from Cambridge County Council's Highways Improvement Initiative for a footway to be constructed between the Village Green and the Village Hall.

In considering possible works on the village hall, a good proportion of the respondents suggested spending some of the funds from the "Deed of Gift" money resulting from the recently installed Solar Park in the Parish. However, a smaller proportion suggested the money should be retained for other uses or used as seed capital for a new community hall.

The responses to the questionnaire contained many suggestions about how the hall could be used to further develop the community spirit of the village.

Respondents' thanks were expressed to villagers and to the friends from AgReserve Farms for such work that had been carried out on the hall.

Recreation - (Appendix page 11)

There was no significant support for establishing a play area with equipment for children in the village, but a defined and safe area where children can play with a ball would be a positive step.

The Village Greens - (Appendix page 11)

It was suggested that as the village greens are possibly the greatest asset owned by the Parish, that whilst retaining their current character, natural look and appeal, increased use should be made of them. A wide variety of suggestions were mooted for enhancing the greens and will be considered by the Parish Council. ***It is suggested that a Sub-committee should be formed under the auspices of the Parish Council*** to consider ideas on actioning this matter.

Respondents' thanks were expressed to the friends from AgReserve Farms for the work that had been carried out keeping one of the greens, not maintained by HDC, in good order.

OTHER ISSUES

Transport - (Appendix pages 11 and 12)

The responses to the questionnaire showed that the vast majority of parishioners relied on a car for transport. However, parishioners are aware of The Ramsey and District Community Bus to Huntingdon, the Ring and Ride mini bus service and Ring a Car service run by HACT but these services are very lightly used, partly because the options and timetables available do not allow enough time for shopping at the destinations. ***The Steering Group will advise the operators of these services of the comments.***

There were many adverse comments made concerning the control of the illegal parking on the village greens of which the Parish Council is already aware, and ***this issue will be referred to the Parish Council for discussion and action.***

Woodwalton and the Great Fen - (Appendix pages 12 and 13)

Some 75% of the Parish lies within the boundary of the Great Fen Project. Because the village is so close to the Great Fen we note that the Great Fen Partnership will take an interest in any proposals that will affect the character of the village. The Parish Council are cognisant that Huntingdonshire District Council has endorsed the Plan and the Great Fen Project will therefore affect any planning issues in the village. Some 67% of respondents expressed positive feelings about the Great Fen.

The responses to the questionnaire showed that an overwhelming percentage of the respondents were in favour of the Great Fen Master Plan, although there were many concerns about vehicular access to the project via New Road due to the state and width of that road and that the ancient Church is important to the Parish and needs to be protected from any developments. ***The Steering Group will advise the Great Fen Project of these views and concerns.***

Despite the above, there were some adverse comments regarding the loss of good farmland and rural employment.

Renewable Energy - (Appendix page 13)

It was clear from the responses to the questionnaire that there was overwhelming opposition to the idea of wind turbines in the Parish and similar levels of objection were expressed about any additional solar farm on the east side of the railway. ***It is strongly hoped that HDC Planning will consider the Parish's views should renewables applications be made.***

What Makes Woodwalton a Special Place For You? - (Appendix pages 14 and 15)

When questioned what people especially enjoyed about the Parish, respondents said that Woodwalton is a pleasant, quaint, sleepy and attractive place to live offering peace and tranquillity, with nice countryside and people.

When asked what was valued, and what was important to preserve in the Parish, the following issues were ranked by percentage responses of order of importance

Unspoilt Landscape	69%
The appearance/character of the parish	68%
Natural habitat and wildlife	59%
Public Footpaths and Bridleways	53%
The Village Greens	52%
The Village Hall	48%
The Village Church (St Andrews)	47%

There were many responses concerning the village public house, The Elephant and Castle, harking back to when it was perceived as a village hub, and suggesting that there was potential for a reinvigorated Pub/Restaurant to have an active role in the Parish.

The thanks of the Steering Group are expressed to all those who participated, and for taking the time and trouble to fill in the questionnaires. Their contributions will help to ensure that the Woodwalton Community Led Plan truly reflects the needs and wishes of everyone who lives in this special parish

The Steering Group comprised:

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Appendix

RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE WOODWALTON COMMUNITY LED PLAN

INFORMATION ABOUT RESPONDENTS		Totals
Numbers in each age group	16-20	1
	21-64	60
	>65	22
	No response	11
Time lived in the parish	<3 years	20
	3-15 years	27
	>15 years	35
	No response	12
Age spread in household	<5 years	5
	5-15 years	16
	16-20 years	6
	21-64 years	72
	>65 years	30

SAFETY: A number of residents have raised concerns regarding road safety, particularly with regard to pedestrians. Comments have been made about the speed of traffic through the village and overtaking along Bridge Street. The development of Alconbury Weald and proposals to increase the housing stock in Ramsey will generate more traffic through the village of Woodwalton over the coming years.

What do you consider to be the minimum safety measures required at the following locations?

	A paved footway	Speed limit reduction	No action required
Bridge Street, between Monks Wood and the railway bridge	14	40	31
Under the railway bridge	47	32	18
The Green (Railway bridge to village hall)	30	44	23
New Road from Vine Cottage to Woodwalton Marsh nature reserve	17	30	37

*In this section actual numbers responding in each section were recorded due to multiple choices

Further suggestions regarding road safety: There was a significant number of requests for some form of speed control through the village, ranging from a suggested 20mph limit, to Speed Bumps (with the necessary lighting), to electronic speed signs, chicanes or a light controlled One Way At A Time system at each end of the village, to having painted or physical traffic islands, to progressing the already suggested Speed Watch campaign.

Some residents suggested that there should be a greater awareness of their speed by the drivers of agricultural vehicles.

Strong support (47%) wanted a paved footpath under the bridge

The problems of subsidence and grooves in New Road were mentioned

A suggestion was made that any footpath up to the village hall should be extended to the entrance of the signed footpath to Wennington.

Overgrown trees and hedges are said to need trimming as a safety measure

There have also been concerns raised over the amount of street lighting in the village. The existing seven street lights are owned and maintained by the Parish Council.

	YES	NO	No Response
Are you happy with the present level of lighting?	64%	29%	7%

If not, where else would you like to see streetlights installed?

Whilst the majority of respondents were happy with the present level of Street Lighting, mention was made of the need to have some dusk to dawn lighting under the railway bridge, and suggested locations for additional lights at the corner of New Road, further up New Road, and by the Green. The trees around the light located outside the Elephant and Castle by the Bus Shelter need to be kept cut back to ensure that there is a full spread of light forwards and sideways from the light.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

MAINS DRAINAGE: Residents have complained of the unpleasant smell of sewage in New Road. Anglian Water is not proposing to complete the mains drainage installation works for the village as a whole until 2017/2018.

	YES	NO	No Response*
Are you expecting to be connected to the new system?	55%	28%	17%
Are you concerned about the delay?	50%	34%	16%

* Lack of response from properties located outside planned area of new system

Further comments or reasons for concern: Many respondents complained about the unacceptable, horrible and disgusting smells in New Road and the potential significant health risks resulting therefrom. The smells are often worse from the drainage ditch near Meadow Cottage, and it was reported that at least one child has fallen into the effluent in the ditch. Many villagers feel "let down" and neglected by the oft-repeated scheduled dates from Anglian Water and the repeated delays. **Anglian Water need to make a positive response to this need which is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life for this village.**

THE RAILWAY: There have also been comments regarding the re-landscaping of the railway embankment following the works carried out by Network Rail in January 2013. A number of saplings have not survived the dry weather, but have enough survived to screen the embankment, given time?

	YES	NO	No Response*
Are you happy that the embankment has been replanted as agreed between the contractor for Network Rail and Woodwalton Parish Council and that no further action is required?	50%	33%	17%

Would you be happy for Network Rail to carry out similar works elsewhere without prior discussion with the Parish Council?	18%	63%	19%
* Lack of response from householder's distance and sighting of the embankment			

Further comments regarding the railway embankment: The residents were well aware that the engineering work had been necessary and of great importance, nevertheless there is strong evidence from the CLP Questionnaire that a significant number of parishioners find it most unsatisfactory that the planting carried out by Network Rail's contractors have not ensured that the failed plantings have been replaced, to provide more cover, possibly with more evergreen varieties.

Apart from the visual implications there have been many references made to the environmental issues of noise and air pollution, due to the lack of leaves etc. and the effect on local wild life, given the close proximity of the SSSI nearby.

The question was asked did Network Rail put the necessary replanting and continued maintenance of the new trees into the contract for reinstating the embankment, and if so why have they not fulfilled this important issue?

HOUSING: Huntingdonshire District Council is currently preparing a Local Plan to 2036 that will identify suitable land for development during this period. The draft Local Plan has no proposals for Woodwalton. Categorized as a Small Settlement, Woodwalton is a small village that cannot sustain key services. The Local Plan includes a policy for Homes in the Countryside which requires new rural property either to be essential for a rural worker to live near their work or to help meet a need for affordable housing. There are few permissible exceptions.

Where and what scale of development would you favour?

<i>Respondents were asked to tick any that they found acceptable or tick "No development"</i>	Infill – integrated with existing housing stock	On the edge of the village	No development	No Response
Sites of 1-2 units	30%	19%	43%	8%
Sites of 3-5 units	7%	19%	60%	14%
Sites of 6-10 units	0%	13%	74%	13%
Over 10 units	0%	3%	80%	17%

Would you be in favour of affordable housing for local people being built as:

	YES	NO	No Response
100% affordable homes only?	17%	65%	18%
With additional housing for sale on the open market helping fund the building of the affordable housing? (40% affordable homes)	20%	56%	24%

Further comments re housing: The concern was that there should be no significant development, and that any smaller development should not overwhelm the current character of the village. The lack of services (Doctors, Shop, etc.,) militates against any additional housing. Any new dwellings should not overfill any small plots and must have off road parking for two vehicles.

Some opinions were also expressed that some affordable housing was desirable to enable struggling younger people and rural workers to stay in the parish to help keep the village alive.

The draft Local Plan to 2036 states within its policy for Traveller Sites that the location for a permanent pitch must have reasonable access to local health services and primary schools. It is therefore unlikely that a request for such a pitch would ever be granted within Woodwalton parish.

However if an application were made for a permanent traveller site within the parish where and what scale of development would you accept?

	Infill - integrated with existing housing stock	On the edge of the village	Not anywhere	No Response
Individual unit	1%	1%	89%	9%
Sites of 2-3 units	0%	2%	84%	14%

THE VILLAGE HALL

	YES	NO	No Response
Would you like to see more use made of the village hall?	83%	7%	10%

Despite efforts over the years by the Village Hall Committee and supporters, the existing hall is in a very poor state of repair and some renovation will be expensive to carry out. The parish needs to decide whether to spend money on maintaining the present building or whether to include a new community centre in its plans for the future.

What is your view?

The parish should spend money on the village hall now	49%
The parish should save its money now and plan for a community hall for the future	34%
The parish should spend its funds elsewhere	9%

Further comments: Any ideas of how you would like to use the village hall: The Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee should commission a full Structural Survey, and the Deed of Gift money held by the Parish Council should be considered for any urgent remedial work, although a view was expressed that such funds should be shared amongst projects. The suggestion was made to have younger people involved in the Hall Management. Serious work should be undertaken to source any funding available, before any works begin.

A considerable list of suggested potential activities for which a suitable hall might be utilised included: A Village Shop, Sales of Local Goods and Produce, Quizzes, Kids' Parties, Keep Fit Classes, Coffee Mornings, Bingo, Village History Display (or Club), Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Indoor Badminton Court, Indoor Bowls, Piano or Vocal Recitals,

Suggested activities outside the Hall included some Allotments and a Kid's Play Area.

Despite the above some doubts were voiced about the viability of a community hall in the village.

Comments were expressed about the intrusive noise from the Band Practices in the Hall, and the unsuitability of the premises for many activities due to lack of facilities and the poor floor. Respondents' thanks were expressed to villagers and to the Friends from AgReserve for their work that had been done at the Hall.

RECREATION

	YES	NO	No Response
Do you believe there is a need for a play area for 2-5 year olds?	26%	66%	8%
Do you believe there is a need for a play area for 6-11 year olds?	36%	55%	9%

THE VILLAGE GREENS: It has been suggested that as the Village Greens are possibly the greatest asset owned by the parish we should make greater use of them. Any thoughts or ideas for the future of our village greens? It is recognised that our village greens are a great asset to the village and the use of this asset should be maximised. A Village Sign has been suggested, and a competition for designs from the children has been mooted. A variety of suggestions were made for some floral areas, either as flowerbeds, a wild flower area, or shrubs, or a floral surround to the war memorial. One parishioner has volunteered to look after a memorial flowerbed.

Suggestions about placing some benches or a picnic table with benches on the Village Greens have been suggested, noting that such facilities should be well away from the road, perhaps forming a quiet area where folk might rest. Any such placements to be positioned bearing in mind the dwellings abutting the green.

Although some respondents said they were content with the Greens, and others' comments implied a lack of community spirit, there were many suggestions for a variety of Village Green activities which might be considered, subject to Health and Safety requirements and to maintaining the open space and peaceful air that most respondents value, including: An Annual Village Fete or Fayre, A Scarecrow Festival, Village Fireworks, A Village BBQ, (Building a communal BBQ or Fire Pit on the green), A Hog Roast, A Car Boot Sale, An outdoor Jumble Sale, Feast Days to celebrate National Events, (Such as Her Majesty's Birthday).

Once again thanks were expressed to the Friends from AgReserve for the work they do in helping to maintain our Village Greens

OTHER ISSUES

Transport

	YES	NO	No Response
Do you rely on a car to get around?	97%	1%	2%
Do you need more space for car parking?	3%	94%	3%
Are you aware of the Ramsey and District Community bus to Huntingdon (RH3) that picks up in Woodwalton on Thursday mornings (£3.40 return)?	44%	55%	1%
Do you use it / would you use it?	2%	72%	26%
Are you aware of the ring and ride minibus run by HACT that runs services to Peterborough, Huntingdon, St Ives, St Neots and Camborne?	40%	48%	12%
Do you / would you use this service (registration fee of £15 then free for bus pass holders)?	29%	66%	5%
HACT also operate a Ring-A-Car service to help those without transport get to appointments etc. Charges are per mile. Do you / might you use this service?	20%	71%	9%

Comments regarding any of the above: The majority of the residents in the village are car owners. The bus and booked car options need to allow more time at the destinations. The present schemes are not seen as being

adequate, (particularly for non-car owning residents) but the current usage is very small and a “Use it or Lose it,” comment was made about the low take-up.

Car-Sharing Schemes work in some places – keeping costs down, and non-car owners can contribute to costs but not for profit. Such schemes need, and contribute to, a good community spirit.

There should be no Parking on the Village Green

WOODWALTON and the GREAT FEN: The parish of Woodwalton is comprised of the village of Woodwalton, Church End, surrounding farmland and Woodwalton Fen. Some 75% of the Parish is within the boundary of the Great Fen project.

This long-term project is managed by a partnership of five organisations, they being Huntingdonshire District Council; Wildlife Trust of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire; Middle Level Commissioners; Natural England and Environment Agency.

The Great Fen Master Plan proposes to create an enveloping landscape of more than 3700 hectares around the existing nature reserves of Holme and Woodwalton Fens. By buying and restoring farmland these fens will be joined together and be greatly enlarged, recreating a range of wetland features with unprecedented conservation benefits for wildlife. It will incorporate areas where winter floodwaters can be stored and will prevent the release of huge amounts of carbon dioxide each year.

In addition the Great Fen will create a massive green space for people, opening new opportunities for recreation, education and business. Over the coming years, there will be more and more places and activities to enjoy. As the landscape develops, visitors will be able to explore miles of walking, cycling and horse-riding routes.

Because the village of Woodwalton is so close to the Great Fen, it is inevitable that the Great Fen partnership will take an interest in any proposals that will affect the character of Woodwalton and Church End. Huntingdonshire District Council has endorsed the Master Plan as Council policy to help determine development proposals within the Great Fen itself and within the Great Fen Landscape and Visual Setting.

	YES	NO	No Response
Are you supportive of the Great Fen Master Plan?	72%	14%	14%
A proposed visitor access point to the Great Fen, where cars will be able to park, is at St Andrew’s Church. Should vehicular access to the Great Fen via New Road be improved before this takes place?	62%	24%	14%

Further comments regarding Great Fen: Despite the large majority who say that they are supportive of the Great Fen Project, seeing it as a great vision for the future, there were voiced a considerable number of adverse comments including: that it is a shame that such fertile land is not used for food production for the ever growing population, and the land should not be used in this way, with the resultant loss of rural employment to some of the Parishioners.

It was said that communications about plans and ideas for the Great Fen did not to involve the surrounding communities enough.

New Road is not considered a good location for a Visitor Access Point, given the state and width of that road, and it was questioned if there was not a more suitable place for an Access Point. Any Access Point development should be beneficial to the village, and offer good off road parking, and not be detrimental to the surrounding landscape. The country lane that is New Road needs to be kept in good repair but not widened. The present access to the proposed site near St Andrew’s Church via New Road would deter visitors and there was comment that maybe a new road access from the B1090 road (by the Solar Park,) along the present Green Lane By-Way, under the railway bridge to New Road would lessen the effect of the additional traffic. This would also allow some of the heavy and fast moving agricultural traffic to avoid using New Road into the Village, thus improving safety and the village traffic load.

The ancient Church and the neighbouring Old Rectory are important to the Parish and need to be protected from any developments.

RENEWABLE ENERGY: Huntingdonshire District Council has produced a supplementary planning document (SPD) entitled Wind Energy Development in Huntingdonshire SPD. These guidelines give some indication as to what level of wind turbine development would be allowed within the parish. As a partner of the Great Fen project it is not surprising that the District Council have given considerable protection to the whole of the parish east of the railway because it falls within the boundary of the Landscape and Visual Setting of the Great Fen. Only an occasional single wind turbine could be allowed. That part of the parish west of the railway is not so clearly protected and planning applications for small and medium-scale groups would be subject to other constraints within the guidelines.

	YES	NO	No Response
Would you object to occasional single turbines on the village side (east) of the railway?	67%	29%	4%
Would you object to occasional single turbines on the Monks Wood side (west) of the railway?	56%	37%	7%
Would you object to a group of 2-5 turbines on the Monks Wood side (west) of the railway?	73%	21%	6%
Would you object to a group of 6-12 turbines on the Monks Wood side (west) of the railway?	78%	15%	7%

There is already one solar farm in the parish, approximately 24 hectares in size, at the junction of the Double Bank Lane bridleway and the B1090 road to Sawtry. It is unlikely that the Great Fen partnership would tolerate such a development within the Great Fen or its Landscape and Visual Setting. However as a parish we need to be clear regarding what we find acceptable.

	YES	NO	No Response
Would you object to a Solar Farm on the village side (east) of the railway, for example on the field between the village and Riddy Wood?	67%	32%	1%
Would you object to an extension of the existing solar farm south of the bridleway on the Monks Wood side (west) of the railway?	48%	45%	7%
Would you object to an extension of the existing solar farm north of the bridleway on the Monks Wood side (west) of the railway?	41%	47%	12%

Further comments regarding renewable energy: Although there were comments agreeing for the need for Renewables, other comments said that Wind Turbines and Solar Farms damaged conservation efforts and were very ugly and intrusive and were a potential source of danger to birds and also wasted good farmland. (Although one view was expressed that the land should be used for energy and not to create food mountains!) It was felt that one Solar Farm already was enough for the area. If any more Renewables were installed in the Parish there should be energy discounts for the Parish, as there were no other direct benefits to the villagers. From a conservation angle it was said that Domestic Roof Fitted Solar panels should be encouraged, but preferably in towns where the visual impact would not spoil the beauty of the countryside. As a cheap energy efficient alternative the use of Air Source heat pumps was also mooted.

WHAT MAKES WOODWALTON A SPECIAL PLACE FOR YOU?

What do you value and wish to preserve in the village and parish of Woodwalton? Of which facilities do you make use, or of which would like to use more?

<i>The boxes that best describes feelings about each of the following were ticked</i>	Very Important To Me	Important To Me	Not Important To Me	No Response
Unspoilt landscape	69%	21%	0%	10%
The village hall	13%	48%	28%	11%
The appearance / character of the parish	68%	22%	2%	8%
The village church (St. Andrew's)	29%	47%	10%	14%
Natural habitats and wildlife	59%	34%	0%	7%
The village pub (Elephant and Castle)	20%	23%	57%	0%
Public footpaths and bridleways	53%	39%	4%	4%
The village green	52%	37%	3%	8%

Further comments regarding what is particularly liked about Woodwalton: Woodwalton is a pleasant, quaint, sleepy and attractive place to live, offering peace and tranquillity, with nice countryside and people. The Greens, the Chestnut trees, and the church are special. One family said having left Docklands, Woodwalton had almost become a sanctuary!

Comments said that with all the developments and road usage in the area it could be devastating to the character of Woodwalton.

	Very Negative	Slightly Negative	Slightly Positive	Very Positive	No Response
How do you feel about the development of a Community Plan for Woodwalton?	4%	11%	30%	37%	18%

This space was provided to give more detail about any of the answers given earlier in the questionnaire or to give feedback about other matters that was thought to fall within the scope of our Community Plan.

Several comments harked back to the days when there was more of a community spirit in the parish, when the Village Hall and the "pub" both offered community activities, and there was a Cricket Team and a Football Team and "people helped each other". One respondent though noted that they felt a good community spirit, where folk took care of each other. The "ugly and old" Hall, despite folk trying hard to make it better, still does not look good, and has limited use as it is.

A resident of Church End said that their only interaction with the "village" was with Dog-Walkers.

There were numerous comments about the Elephant and Castle Public House: some remembering the days when the “pub” was the hub of the Parish. It was suggested that the “pub” could do more for the parish but needs updating, with new décor, more friendly staff, more open attitudes, becoming more family friendly, and once again to become an integral part, or even the hub, of the village, attracting more custom, a place folk could enjoy.

A better-run facility with rooms to let, combined with a restaurant, could it was felt become a viable unit, especially given the proximity to surrounding towns and villages, and with advertising and publicity, the high volume of passing traffic on the A1. Two comments suggested the village could do without the “pub”, and the chalets at the back. Comments were made about cooking smells emanating from the “pub” on summer evenings whilst neighbours were in their gardens.

Thanks are expressed to all for taking the time and trouble to fill in the questionnaires. Your contributions will help to ensure that the Woodwalton Community Led Plan truly reflects the needs and wishes of everyone who lives in this special parish.

Rev. Brian Hyder-Smith, Chair of the Woodwalton Community Led Plan Steering Group

