

Appendix 2

Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan.... Survey Analysis Overview

The survey questionnaire was sent out to all occupied properties in the parish, 160 properties.

40 questionnaires were returned, the percentage return therefore was 25%.

The following points have become evident as the survey was analysed.

1. Support for the vision was very high at an average of 4.5 out of 5.
2. Support for the development of Upper Hulme Mill was again high at 4.2, however there is concern about parking and the suitability of the road to the Mill.
Actions... Parking will be addressed in the policies governing development ie a certain number of parking spaces per housing unit would be required. Also moving industrial units away from the main thoroughfare would eliminate the issues we have with loading/unloading. The roadway has been assessed by Staffordshire Highways and their judgement is that the increase in traffic will be marginal as the volumes are relatively high, due to tourism, and there has been significant HGV traffic along that road for many years.
3. There was support for the possible affordable housing sites in Meerbrook at an average of 3.8, but there was strong disagreement from within Meerbrook itself.
Actions... On reflection the parish council have decided not to continue with this policy, instead deciding that it will be better to address the issue of affordable housing as and when a request arises. The sites that we identified, although acceptable to the PDNPA and SMDC, are unlikely to become available in the medium or even long term and there is a much greater likelihood of affordable housing being built on the Upper Hulme Mill site.
4. The possibility of a holiday cottage owner being able to choose whether or not to offer full time rent had good support at 4.2.
Actions There was some concern that the rents would be too high for local people but according to Whittaker and Biggs estate agents the premium would only be of the order of 10% against a similar property in Leek. The rationale for this policy is that holiday cottages across the Peak Park are occupied for about 25% of the year, which means there is a substantial body of housing stock being under utilised.
5. The Roaches overspill car park was very well supported at 4.4.
Actions.. Finance for this project has proved to be impossible at present so the concept will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan so that it can be pursued when finance can be found.
6. There is great concern about parking within Meerbrook village due to the popularity of the local pub.
Actions.. Leekfrith parish council is engaging with Severn Trent and the Lazy Trout to see if an extension to the Lazy Trout car park is possible. This is progressing very quickly so will not be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.