

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Introductory articles were published in *Crowmarsh News*, March and April 2024 editions, the second article also advising the venues for the consultation exhibitions.

The exhibitions and public consultation events were held at North Stoke Village Hall on Saturday 6 April and Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Saturday 13 April 2024. Five posters were displayed:

1. Gains and losses in the Parish over the last four years
2. Outline of the current Neighbourhood Plan
3. Outline of the present plan policies and of the review process
4. Potential development sites in Crowmarsh Gifford
5. Introduction to a questionnaire (separate posters for North Stoke and Crowmarsh Gifford each featuring the respective current village Plan Maps)

The questionnaire was available at the exhibitions as hard copy and was also advertised as available on line. Questions asked were:

SODC site – what are your two preferred options for the development of this brownfield site?

Jewson site – are you happy with housing on this brownfield site, if not what would you prefer?

Neighbourhood Plan – does it include everything you want to see it include? If not, what is missing?

Neighbourhood Plan – do you agree a light touch is required to update it? If not, what major changes would you aspire to?

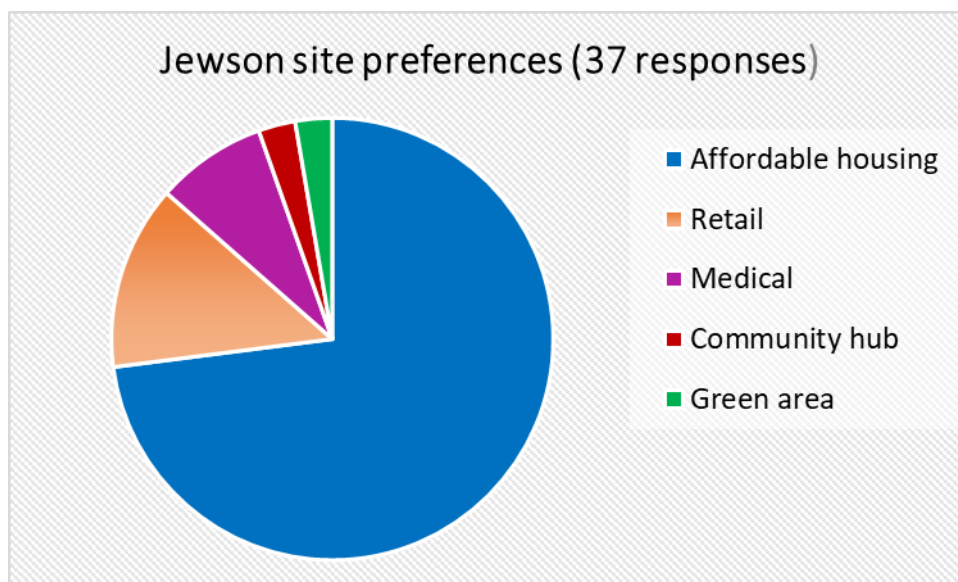
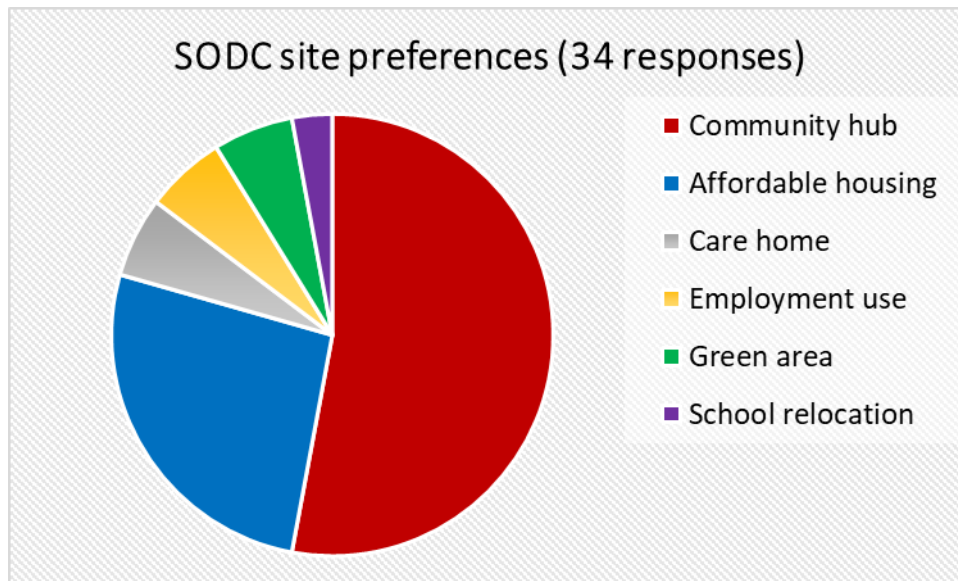
Plan Policies – do the current Plan Policies cover all our needs? What aspects of planning for the future would you like to see in addition?

Your Concerns – do you have any concerns you would like to share (infrastructure, speeding, public transport, public facilities...)?

19 hard copy questionnaires were returned and a further 16 were submitted on line.

The North Stoke event was attended by about 25 people who left eight hard-copy completed questionnaires while other visitors filled the questionnaire in on-line. The main concern in North Stoke was preservation of the privately owned field that is central to the village. This lies outside the existing settlement boundary and any development proposal would be considered within the rules applying to the Chilterns National Landscape. Two residents from Mongewell voiced concern over lack of development of the former school site, given that there is a seven-year-old planning approval for 166 dwellings. This would enhance the area and greatly improve security, which is an ongoing problem with occasional intrusion into empty and abandoned buildings.

The exhibition at Crowmarsh Gifford was held alongside the monthly Community Café and about 30 residents attended the event. Nine hard copy questionnaires were completed at the event. The preference for the development of the SODC site was overwhelmingly in favour of some kind of community hub. Most responses accepted that housing was appropriate for the Jewson site and for part of the SODC site.



There was general contentment for the existing neighbourhood plan with 9 positive responses, and for the existing policies with 7 positive responses. There were no suggestions for any significant changes to be incorporated in the revision, and a light touch review was sanctioned in 15 responses. However, there were also a total of 9 'don't know' responses from those that were not familiar enough with the existing plan to make a judgement on the three relevant questions.

Residents' main concerns were the inadequate local infrastructure. Most judged this to be incapable of coping with the pressures brought about from new housing estates both in the Parish and areas adjacent to it. There was a clear objection to any further major housing development in the parish and its surroundings until money had been invested in roads, education, medical and utility structures.