

**May 2021**

## **Longstock – Your Village, Your Vision**

As mentioned in our previous updates, part of the Neighbourhood Planning process is to consider local housing and local housing need. To investigate and identify evidence of need, the Steering Committee (in conjunction with Test Valley Borough Council's Housing Development Team) embarked on Housing Needs Survey.

### **Survey Distribution and Methodology**

In December 2020, a total of 250 housing need questionnaires were distributed. 220 were hand delivered to every household within Longstock parish, 25 were delivered to Leckford Estate and 5 were delivered to Test Valley School. Everyone was asked to complete the Part 1 of the survey. If a household considered itself in need, or likely to be in need of affordable housing within the next five years, it was invited to complete Part 2 of the survey.

To encourage a good response, households were asked to either complete the hand delivered paper version or an on-line version of the questionnaire (via Survey Monkey). The paper versions could either be returned in the prepaid envelope provided or a Steering Group volunteer returned at a later date to collect the sealed envelope and post it for the respondent – this option was offered to support those shielding or finding it difficult to go out.

At the time of the survey there were no imminent (housing) development threats which had the potential to influence responses (either positively or negatively). It was therefore felt that the questionnaire would provide an authentic reflection of residents wishes.

### **Aim**

The aim of carrying out the survey was to investigate the affordable housing needs of our community or those who needed to live in Longstock parish. If housing need was identified, the options of the best approach to address this could then be explored.

'Housing need' can be defined as;

- The need for an individual or household to obtain housing that is suitable to their circumstances.
- It implies that there are problems or limitations with the household's current housing arrangements and that the household is unable to afford or to access suitable accommodation in the private sector.
- Such problems may be concerned with housing costs, size, location, layout, state of repair, or security of tenure either immediately or in the future.

Overall, there was a good response rate of 40% (99 replies), 79 responses were received via return post and 20 via Survey Monkey.

### **Key Findings:**

73% of respondents felt there was insufficient housing in the parish for people to move to.

Just under 35% of respondents would support a housing development scheme of between 11- 20 homes, just under 30% would support a scheme of 4-10 homes, 13% would support 1-3 homes, 20% would support 10-40 homes and 3% 40+ homes;

**All respondents supported a development of some kind.**

The tenure most supported for a housing scheme was for the affordable housing product of shared ownership (part buy/part rent), with affordable rent and social rent closely following. There was also support for *some* open market homes.

There was evidence to support housing for occupants to down-size to as well as a proportion of housing for families with children under 10 years old.

There were 14 respondents to Part 2 of the survey which indicated that there were 4 single occupants requiring 1 bedroom property but expressing a desire for 2 bedrooms (1 would like to continue renting through a housing association, the others were hoping to downsize and purchase on the open market and therefore wouldn't be considered as being in affordable housing need). 5 families with children and or young adults required 2–3-bedroom homes, either for affordable home ownership (shared ownership/equity loan) or open market purchase (more than 1 option could be selected as a preference); affordability would need to be factored into this as a consideration). 5 couples living at home require affordable home ownership opportunities and 1 requesting affordable or social rent (all had a preference for 2-bedroom houses).

The results of this survey were shared with Longstock Parish Council and are now being used to inform the Neighbourhood Plan as it moves forward.

### **Date for your diary**

As coronavirus restrictions are finally starting to lift, the Steering Group have started to plan (for the third time) a much-awaited face to face Community Engagement Event. At the time of writing we are working towards a date of 24<sup>th</sup> Jun 21, between 7pm – 9pm in Longstock Village Hall. We are monitoring government coronavirus restriction guidelines very closely, so please pencil this date into your diary for the time being. We will of course circulate invitations to every household closer to the date to confirm the event will be going ahead.

Finally, as always, we are always keen for residents join us as either part of the Steering Group, or even just to offer their skills, experience, or suggestions on an ad-hoc basis. If you feel that you would like to know more or perhaps would like to get involved then please email us at [longstocknhp@gmail.com](mailto:longstocknhp@gmail.com)

Longstock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

### **CALLING ALL LONGSTOCKINGS**



The Longstock Neighbourhood Plan is a huge undertaking and will only be as successful as the input it receives from local residents.

As the plan proceeds we need further volunteers to get involved in sub committees which will be exploring areas such as traffic, footpaths, verges and hedges, SSSI's and historic heritage assets.

If you or someone you know could spare a few hours per month and would like to get involved please email us at;

[longstocknhp@gmail.com](mailto:longstocknhp@gmail.com)