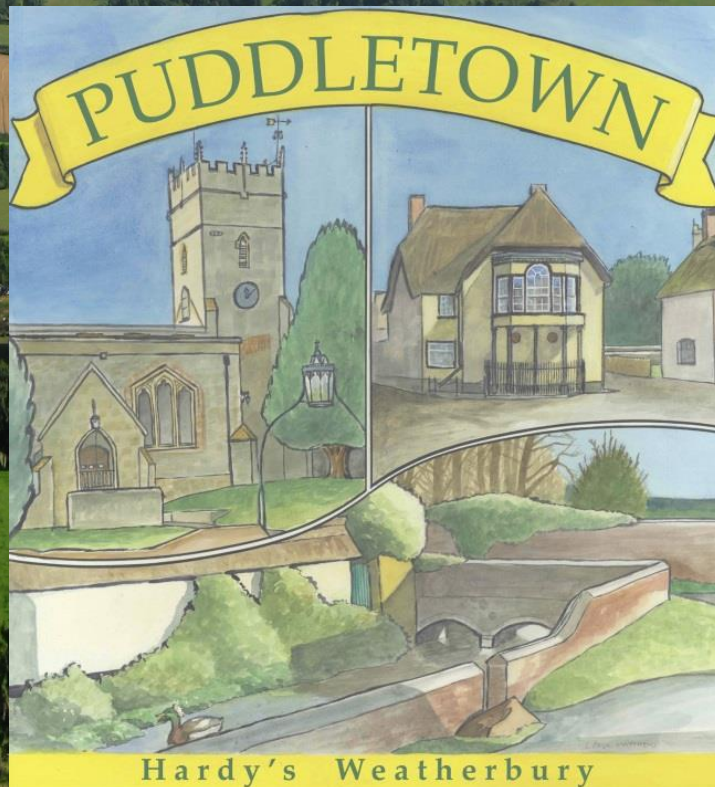


# Puddletown

## Neighbourhood Plan

Report from the 2016 survey





# Acknowledgements

The information provided by the survey respondents alongside the administration, collation, analysis, comment and contributions that have gone into producing this report are gratefully acknowledged by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

Chair: Paul Langdon

Vice Chair: Peter Churchill

Steering Group members: Jayne Cottingham; Paul Cottingham; Jane Cox; Phil Drake; Janey Gordon; Mary Miles; Mark Richardson; Sandra Shaw.

Consultant: Feria Urbanism, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 2LA <http://feria-urbanism.eu/>

West Dorset District Council: Terry Sneller, Local Plan Team Leader at West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Partnership <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning/west-dorset-weymouth>

## Chair's Foreword



“Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.”

Government Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning.

This report contains the views of more than a hundred and sixty residents who completed the first Neighbourhood Plan survey during 2016. The object of this survey was to try to understand the concerns and views of people who live in the Puddletown parish so that we can build on them in our subsequent work. In publishing the findings we are sharing the results with the residents of the parish.

The survey showed people choose to live and work in this area because of the historic, environmental and village qualities. There is recognition of the natural environment with any growth needing to be balanced with protection of the countryside and environment, including heritage and architecture. The peaceful way of life, the strong sense of community and the local amenities are also clearly valued. But there are equally important messages about concerns and wants that residents share – a desire for affordable housing for example.

The data that has been gathered will be used to inform subsequent research and work by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. It is important that we capture the views of the whole community. We want to involve everyone in gathering views and different perspectives. This and wider evidence will be vital in creating the Neighbourhood Plan. We hope this report brings home the importance of a plan for the current and future residents of Puddletown parish.

On behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, we would like to thank all those who took part in this public consultation, either by agreeing to act as a collection point for completed surveys or by giving their time to share their views with us. We warmly invite you to help us develop the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan with more opportunities to have your say in 2017. Our aim is to be as inclusive as possible.

## Summary of Key Points

This is a report on the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan survey, which was conducted in March and April 2016, designed to gather the opinions of residents living in the parish. These views, along with other research and consultations, have been invaluable in indicating what local people want for the future of the Puddletown Civil Parish area over the next 15 years. These can be summarised as follows:

- The parish of Puddletown is an exceptional place to live, work and visit. The survey respondents want to keep it that way; protecting its historic, environmental and village qualities, whilst enhancing the whole parish with limited development, resources and housing.
- There is support for limited housing growth (circa 100 houses in 15 years) with a perceived need for a range of housing to meet the needs of the varied communities within the parish. The housing should be well designed, quality housing, reflecting the historical nature of the parish, which will continue to both enhance the attractiveness of the area to live in and its sustainability.
- Within the civil parish of Puddletown, respondents are concerned about both an excess of 'infilling' developments but also allowing the village to 'sprawl' out into the surrounding countryside. There is a wish to both support the continued vibrancy of the village and also protect the open countryside and rural environment.
- Respondents felt that future development must be balanced with a high degree of concern over the village and wider parish's landscape, geological assets, built heritage, archaeological sites and wild-life habitats.
- It is recognised that the parish economy is varied and incorporates traditional rural agriculture and other businesses, as well as visitors to the area and those working from home. Respondents indicated that there is some support for local businesses and working from home.
- Respondents wish to enhance the sustainability of the area. There is an awareness that Puddletown is accessible to surrounding towns; has access to a wide range of services and facilities and that this makes it an attractive place to live, work and visit. There was concern that future development should not overly stretch amenities such as the school and medical centre.
- The respondents to the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan survey identified a number of green spaces, landmarks and existing community facilities which they wish to see protected, notably the Green and Recreation Ground.
- The risk of flooding is a concern to the respondents, as Puddletown lies between the Rivers Piddle and Frome and areas of the village have been subject to flooding.
- The report identifies a number of new facilities, which respondents suggest for the parish. There are also suggestions as to enhancements to existing community services including traffic management.

## Introduction

*“Puddletown has always been a working village.”*

*“I have lived in Puddletown since a newly-wed 29 years ago.”*

*“Such a lovely village. Don’t spoil it.”*

This report captures and reflects the views of Puddletown residents who completed the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan survey during March and April 2016. The object of this survey was to try to understand the concerns and views of people who live in Puddletown Civil Parish (Puddletown CP), so that these can be built on in subsequent work and compilation of a Neighbourhood Plan. It is important now to publish these findings and engage with all residents and other stakeholders, to ensure that the plan reflects the views of all in the parish.

Puddletown is a distinctive and exceptional village and parish. Respondents to the survey and consultations are clear in their affection for this area and are strong in their determination to maintain and protect it.

Respondents not only appreciate the natural and environmental qualities of the village, but consider they have a duty to protect them for future generations who choose to live in, work in and visit the area. They want to keep and, if possible, improve the range of community facilities such as the schools, doctors’ surgery, local shop and public house. Respondents recognise that local businesses are important to the village economy. They want to support those existing businesses whilst attracting new enterprises, providing they are in keeping with the special qualities of the area. Importantly, people see the need for modest growth in housing, provided it is controlled, designs are in keeping with the character of existing village buildings and the sustainability of the village is enhanced.



The initial findings help to indicate what other information we need to find out. We hope this report helps everyone to better understand what happens next and why a Neighbourhood Plan is so important to the current and future residents of Puddletown.

## Overview of Puddletown Civil Parish



Puddletown is a village and associated civil parish in the West Dorset district of Dorset, England. The village is situated about 4.5 miles north east of the county town, Dorchester, and is sited by the River Piddle, from which it derives its name.

Puddletown provided the inspiration for the fictional settlement of Weatherbury in Thomas Hardy's novel "Far from the Madding Crowd".

Weatherbury Farm, the home of principal character Bathsheba Everdene, is based on Waterston Manor within the parish.

Puddletown CP is located within two arms of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In addition it benefits from having a Conservation area within the village, having numerous buildings which are listed under the Historic Buildings protection and, in the southern part, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The protection and management of these assets were strongly supported by respondents.

It is also considered to be within a Flood Risk Zone.

The 2014 population estimate and the 2011 population census for Puddletown CP give figures of 614 households and a population of 1,194 aged 18 or over.

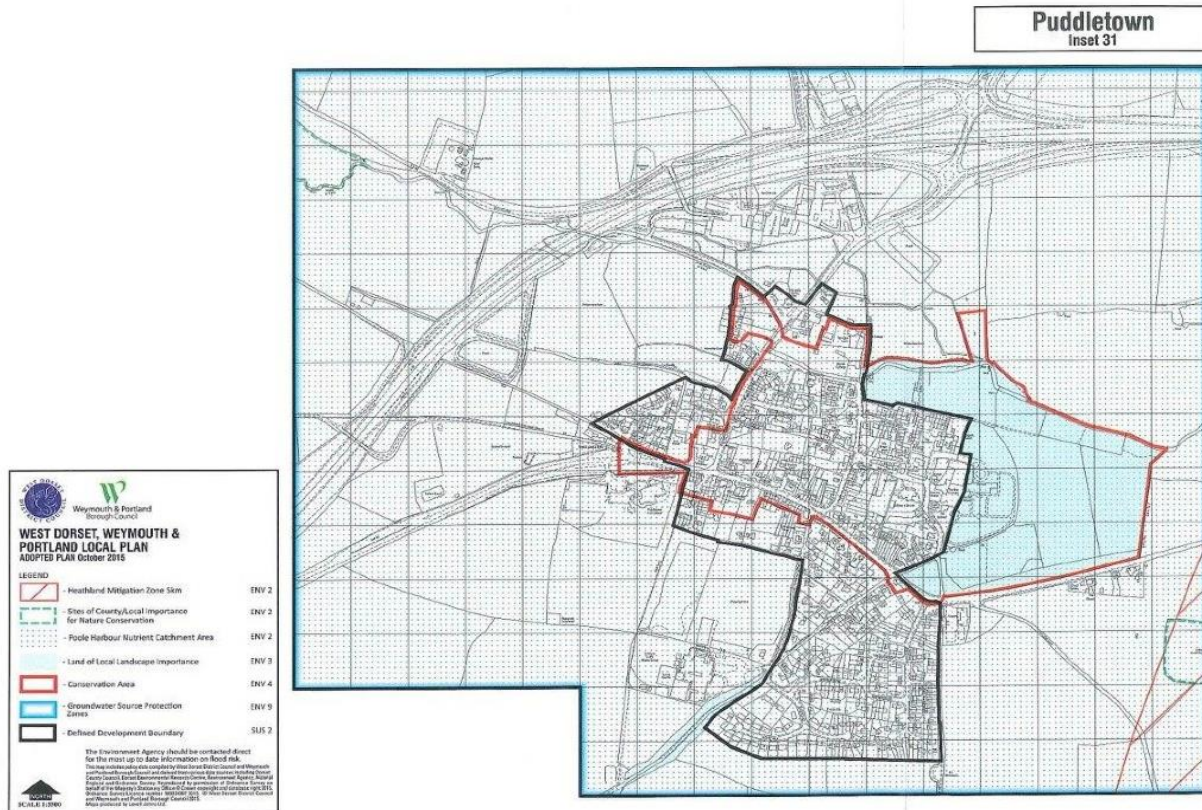
## Geography

Puddletown CP extends between the flood plain and water meadows of the River Frome in the south to the chalk watershed of Puddletown Down in the north. It covers 7,185 acres and is bisected by the River Piddle, which crosses it from west to east. Measured directly, Puddletown village is about 4.5 miles northeast of Dorchester, 16 miles west of Poole and 11 miles southwest of Blandford Forum.

The River Frome, which forms the southern boundary of the parish, is designated by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, SSSI.



# Puddletown Village Conservation Area



Under the Civic Amenities Act 1967, councils have a duty to designate areas of special architectural or historic interest as Conservation Areas and ensure that their character and appearance is preserved or enhanced. This includes trees within the Conservation Area and those trees outside these areas which are protected by Tree Preservation orders. The implication of the designation is that greater control is to be exercised over new housing and other development matters subject to planning consent.

Puddletown CP boasts over fifty listed buildings at both grades 1 and 2. These range from St Mary's Church to Waterston Manor; many of the buildings in the Puddletown village conservation area and even includes the K6 Telephone Kiosk in The Square.

Other historical features include parts of the Roman road from Dorchester crossing Puddletown Forest and there is evidence of prehistoric human occupation in the parish, in the form of 30 round barrows. The remains of strip lynchets of 'Celtic' fields have been found near a few of the barrows.

The respondents' comments in the survey demonstrated the value placed on Puddletown's historical buildings and trees within the conservation area and expressed a concern to maintain these elements.

## Consultancy and Research – Methodology

Research for the Neighbourhood Plan was conducted by consultation in the Puddletown Civil Parish during 2015 and 2016 which included:

- a stall at the village fair,
- social media,
- public meetings
- a survey distributed to households in March 2016

This report is based on the survey.

## Puddletown Demographics

Age Groups	0-17	18-24	25-40	41-65	66+	All ages	18 and older
Totals	314	66	235	536	357	1,508	1,194
Percentage	21%	4%	16%	36%	24%	100%	

Source: Mid-year estimates, ONS 2014

This table shows the total population and that for the different age groups. The figure for 18 and older is shown as it was this age group who were asked to complete the survey.

1. Age Groups	18-24	25-40	41-65	66+	Total
2. Respondents	2	17	68	69	156
3. Population	66	235	536	357	1,194
4. Actual: Respondents / Total Respondents	1%	11%	44%	44%	100%
5. Expected: Population / Total Population	6%	20%	45%	30%	100%
6. Differences	-4%	-9%	-1%	14%	
7. Overall Response <sup>2</sup>	14%				

### Notes:

1. Percentage totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

2. Based on 165 responses (including the nine returns received with no age recorded).

This table shows the overall response rate (14%) and that for the different age groups. Row 4 shows the percentage of the total responses accounted for by that age group, e.g. 44% of the respondents were aged 66 or over. Row 5 shows the percentage each group accounts for in the total population in the parish aged 18 or over, e.g. 30% of the total population were aged 66 or over. The differences in row 6 are found by deducting the expected from the actual. Where there is a positive figure then the age group is over-represented in the survey and where there is a negative that age group is under-represented. The only age group with a positive difference is that for the 66 and over age group.



## Limitations of the Survey

Table 2 above shows the response to the survey represented almost 14% of the parish adult population. Compared to other Neighbourhood Plan surveys nationally this is a typical response, if on the low side. But there is an issue over the age make-up of the respondents. This is clearly seen in Table 2 with 42% of respondents aged 66 or over compared with 30% in the general population. Before the Neighbourhood Plan is finalised it is intended to consult more widely with more focus on those aged under 65 and those aged between 18 and 41.

There are issues with the design of the survey: there was a lack of clarity in some questions about how they should be completed and cases where more guidance was needed, particularly regarding definitions of planning 'jargon' in the survey. In particular, 'Social/Affordable' housing and 'sustainable development' were not perhaps well enough defined. In addition, some questions appeared to ask respondents to tick all answers that they felt applied, (for example Q1), others asked for a simple preference (for example Q2). Not all respondents answered every question and this was more noticeable in later questions, suggesting survey 'fatigue'. It was also found that in the questions where respondents were asked to mark responses on maps, there was sometimes a lack of understanding as to how to complete. Due to this, and the complexity of the data here, this analysis is being held over and will be produced after the Community Event on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 when more information will be gathered. This relates to questions 3 & 4 at the Housing Needs section of the survey.

However, the survey data, both quantitative and qualitative, can be regarded as an indication of the views of respondents and seen as indicative of the views of the wider community.



# Results of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Survey

## Housing Needs

**Q1. Please tick the type of housing that you think may be required in Puddletown.**

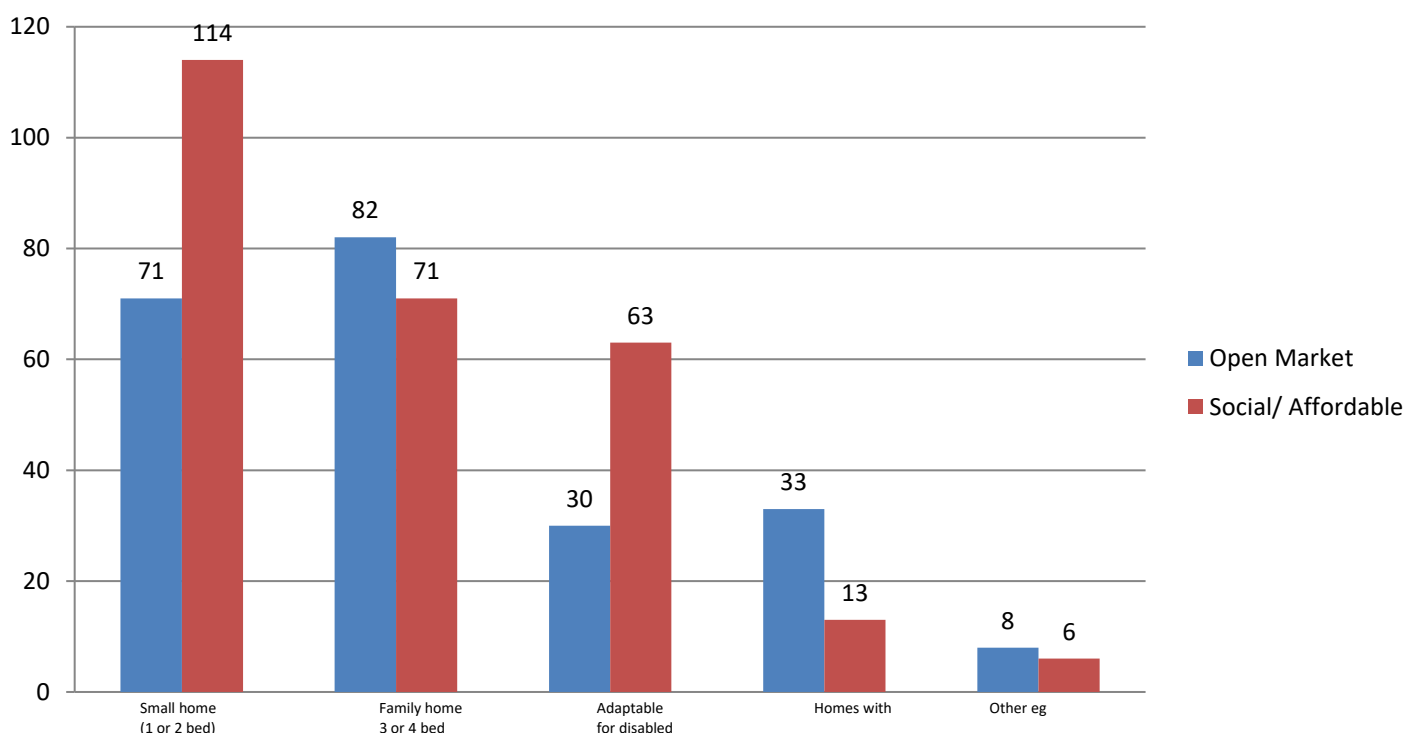
*(Respondents ticked all that they felt were applicable, number of Respondents = 165)*

Types of housing	Open Market	Social/ Affordable
Small home (1 or 2 bed)	71	114
Family home (3 or 4 bed)	82	71
Homes with space to allow work from home	33	13
Adaptable home (eg for disabled or elderly)	30	63
Other eg self-build (please describe)	8	6

*"I believe there is room for growth, however the parish cannot maintain this rate. The school will not be able to cope with cohort sizes as it is."*

*"Puddletown is not a suburb of Dorchester. It is our character which needs preserving."*

**Q1. Type of housing required in Puddletown**



- Small homes are the most in demand with family homes next.
- Social/affordable demand is higher than the open market for small & adaptable houses.
- There is low demand for homes with work space and Other.
- Open Market demand is higher than Social/ Affordable for family homes.

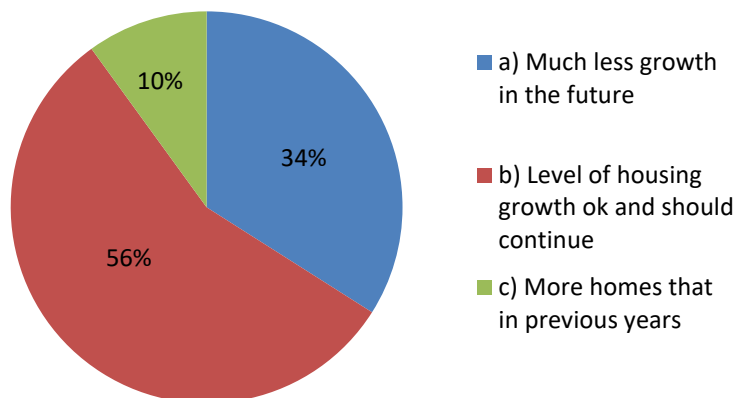
**Q2. Since 2001, 99 homes have been built in Puddletown Parish.  
Do you think:**

*"Modest enlargement ensures a vibrant population and helps support existing and proposed businesses and schools."*

a) we should have much less growth in the future	34%
b) this level of housing growth has been ok and should continue	56%
c) we should have More homes that in previous years	10%

- The majority (56%) want development at the same level as the period 2001 to 2015 inclusive.
- 10% of respondents favour more development.
- There is no desire for a higher level of growth, with over a third of respondents wanting less growth in the future.

**Q2. Possible housing needs in Puddletown Parish up to 2031**



*"[Any development needs] to maintain village identity and avoid sprawl."*

*"We are a village and too much growth would turn it into a small town. We do not have the business to cope with more people and not enough facilities."*

The responses indicated that additional housing should meet the needs of people who wish to live in the area. Smaller, affordable housing is attractive to young families and those with limited incomes; larger family sized homes mean they will stay in the area and homes suitable for retired people to downsize to, have also been identified as a means to enhance the "sustainability cycle" in terms of change of ownership.

*"The concept of sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to development that looks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society."*

(The Sustainable Development Commission)

Puddletown has an existing Designated Development Boundary (DDB) and respondents' comments suggested that a number would prefer future new development to be within the DDB to keep a village feel and prevent sprawl. It is worth noting that the current DDB is largely contiguous with the village conservation area, but has been expanded in recent years to enclose areas of modern housing development.

There were contradictory views concerning future housing development. There was some consensus that development would continue to happen in the village and it would be better if controlled. There were some comments that there should be no more infill development and indeed during the 12 months (2015-2016) there has been considerable opposition to relatively small scale developments on central village sites. However, nine new properties have been developed, including four in Butt Close and five on the Old School site. Further developments have been proposed.

Some respondents suggested that developments should be out of the centre of the village and outside of the current DDB. Other respondents were concerned about planning sprawl developments beyond the village centre and DDB. There was considerable concern about the impact on amenities and services that development would have, for example on the school provision, medical services and the level of traffic locally.

*"Parking is a big problem within the village. Any planning should be granted on the promise that at least two spaces for vehicles allowed for each dwelling."*

*"Steady growth will give time for amenities to be developed."*



There is little support for large scale developments. These were considered to be inappropriate and damaging to the character of the village. There is support for small scale, housing development over the next 15 years, with a preference for a mix of small, medium and family accommodation, suitable for a variety of age groups and incomes and including some affordable homes.

*"Affordable housing includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should: meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Include provision for the home to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or, if these restrictions are lifted, for any subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision." (Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3): Housing. November 2006, Department of Communities and local Government)*

The provision of affordable housing and smaller homes should be considered for inclusion under any planning applications for an open market housing site development. Where this is not possible, a financial contribution towards the provision of affordable housing elsewhere should be required for any shortfall that cannot be delivered on the site. The provision of affordable housing may also be possible by the identification of a 'rural exception site'.

*"Affordable housing is a misnomer since all housing - rented and owned should be affordable for people."*

*"Unnecessary and inappropriate infill, inappropriate access and overlooking neighbouring properties [should be avoided]."*

*"We want to keep the village atmosphere. Massive housing estates are out of place in the countryside."*

Respondents voiced that any potential developments within the Puddletown village area, with the close proximity to important historical and other sites, should take care to ensure that they do not impact adversely on these sites.

Although there are several locations within the DDB where in-fill development of housing could be considered, these are limited. At the time of writing, there are two locations where landowners have indicated they may wish to progress applications for small scale housing development. There are however other locations within the DDB which might be suitable for small scale development or single construction projects if the owners of the land decide to seek planning permission in the future. This might include re-purposing existing buildings. Property owners may also wish to extend existing buildings.



**Questions 3 and 4:** This analysis will be produced after the Community Event on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017, when more information will be gathered (see pg 9, Limitations of the Survey).

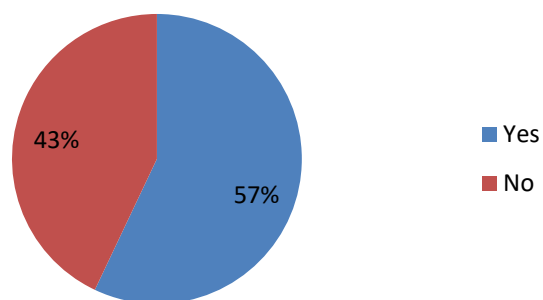
## Business and Local Economy

**Q1. Would you be in favour of allocating land for the creation of a small business area providing low-cost, flexible workspaces, meeting rooms and management services for local start-ups, small enterprises, freelancers and home workers?**

Yes	85
No	64
Other options	0

There is some support for small business development in the future.

Allocation of land for small business



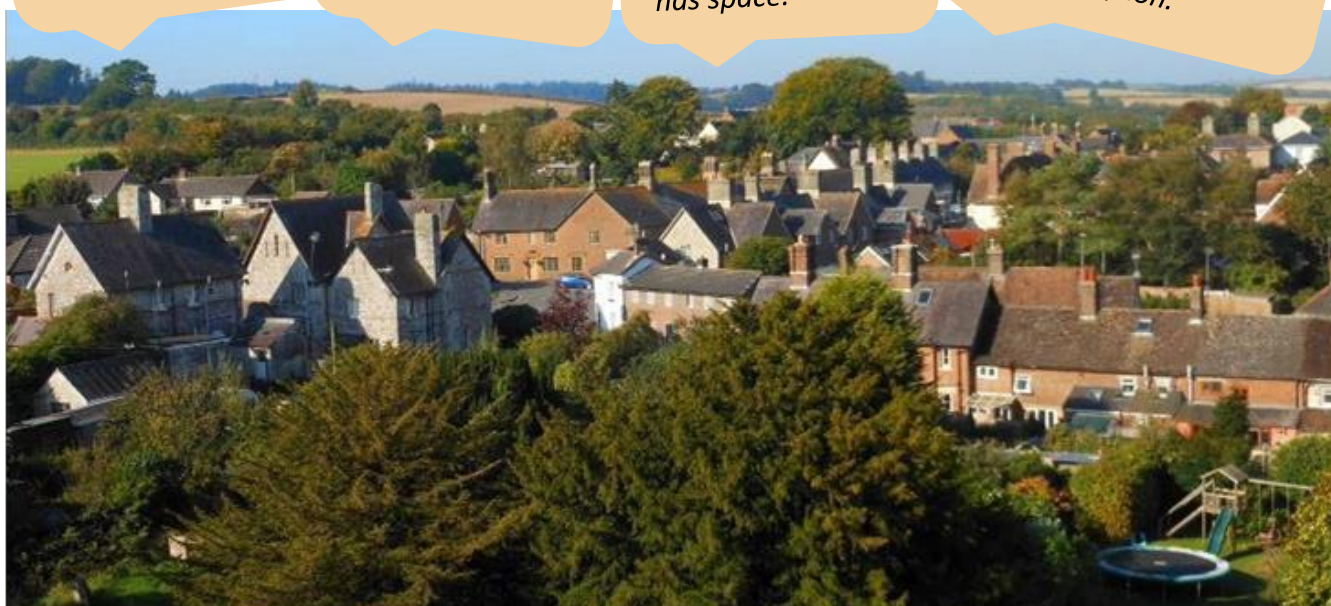
The survey indicated several views on local businesses. It was felt by several respondents that there was a need for local people to be able to work in the village or from home and that the village should encourage new business growth, recognising its strong position by virtue of its geographic location, outstanding natural beauty, historical associations and enduring community appeal. Some respondents were critical of recent attempts to develop business premises locally.

*"[Business units should be developed] only if there is demand."*

*"... small units at Riverside Court are now houses."*

*"There is an enterprise park at Piddlehinton that has space."*

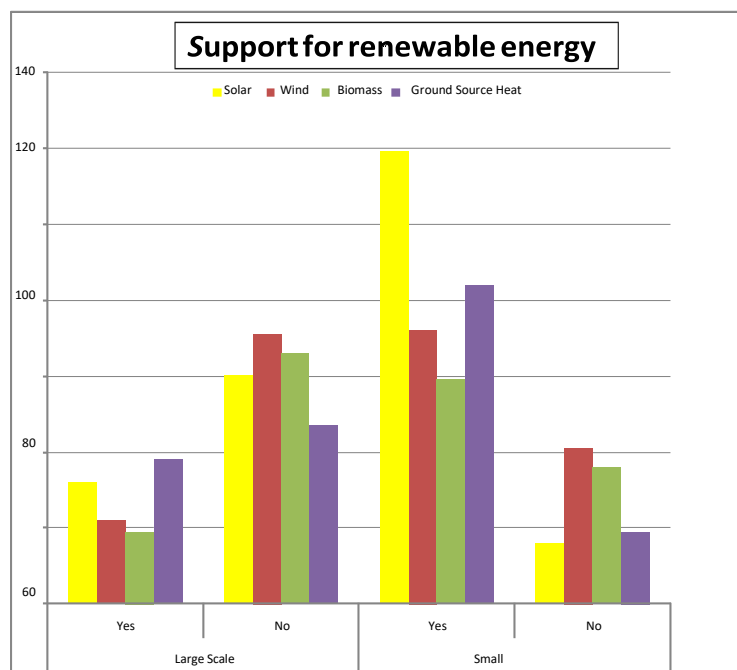
*"There are other places existing for this purpose that are not fully used, eg Duck Farm Bockhampton."*



## Q2. Would you support renewable energy schemes within the Parish?

Would you support renewable energy schemes within the Parish?	Large scale		Small scale/domestic	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Solar	32	60	119	16
Wind	22	71	72	41
Biomass	19	66	59	36
Ground Source Heat Pumps	38	47	84	19

- There is support for small scale/domestic energy schemes.
- There is little support for large scale renewable energy schemes.
- The highest level of support is for small scale/domestic solar energy schemes.



Respondents were not generally in favour of large scale and intrusive renewable energy schemes such as wind turbine and solar panel farms: the presumption should be that such large energy schemes are unacceptable. Should any such proposals be forthcoming, their potential impact will need to be considered and require as a minimum an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Puddletown.

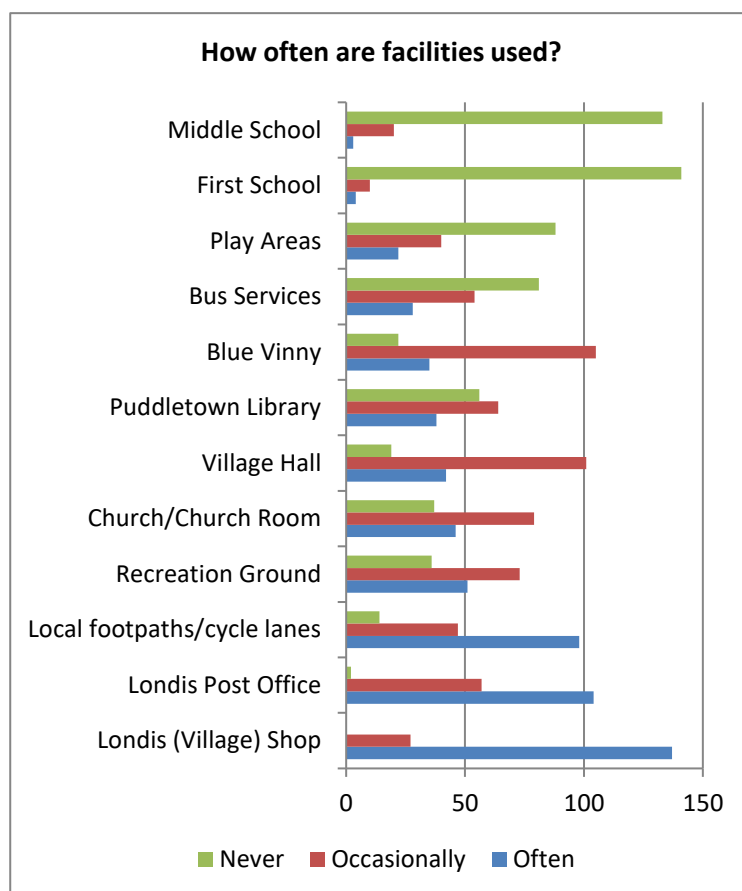
However, the survey gives strong support to small scale domestic/domestic energy schemes, particularly solar. With the development of technology here, this may be worth considering for new homes. Smaller scale, domestic renewable energy proposals are potentially easier to integrate, but could also have an adverse effect on the local environment.

## Village Infrastructure

### Q1. How often do you or your family use the following facilities?

How often do you or your family use the following facilities?	Often	Occasionally	Never
Londis (Village) Shop	137	27	0
Londis Post Office	104	57	2
Local footpaths/cycle lanes	98	47	14
Recreation Ground	51	73	36
Church/Church Room	46	79	37
Village Hall	42	101	19
Puddletown Library	38	64	56
Blue Vinny	35	105	22
Bus Services	28	54	81
Play areas	22	40	88
The First School (rented)	4	10	141
The Middle School (rented)	3	20	133

- The village shop and post office are very heavily used.
- Local footpaths/cycle lanes are well used by respondents.
- The First and Middle Schools are infrequently used by the respondents.



The survey identified that the community facilities most used by respondents are the Shop and Post Office. These are used often or occasionally by almost all respondents. Other well used facilities by almost as many respondents are the Blue Vinny Pub and the Village Hall; local footpaths and cycle paths; the community Library and Church. The Recreation Ground and play areas are used more occasionally but still by 124 respondents. Bus services were used regularly by 28 respondents and occasionally by 53. It was noted that an improved bus service might encourage more users.

### Q2. What other facilities or improvements to existing facilities would you like to see to enhance your experience of village life?

There were a number of new community services suggested by respondents. This is a summary:

A café (tea shop or coffee shop); public toilets

Additional or restored footpaths including short circular walks and a river walk

A cycle path to Tolpiddle and Troy Town; links between footpaths and bridle paths

A community bus service; a nursery or play centre

Car parking facilities, particularly in the centre of the village

A bowling green, tennis club and adult sports facilities

A dentist; somewhere to buy fish

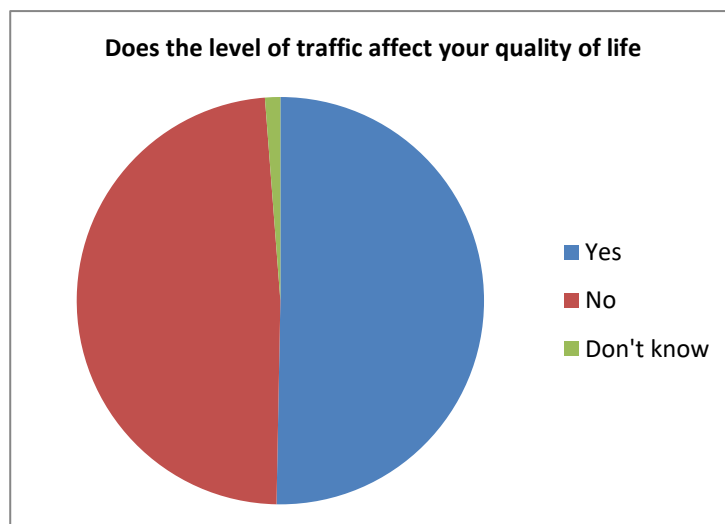
Better advertising of existing clubs and groups.



### Q3. Does the level of traffic in the neighbourhood area affect your quality of life?

Does the level of traffic in the neighbourhood area affect your quality of life?	Tick
Yes	83
No	80
Don't know	2

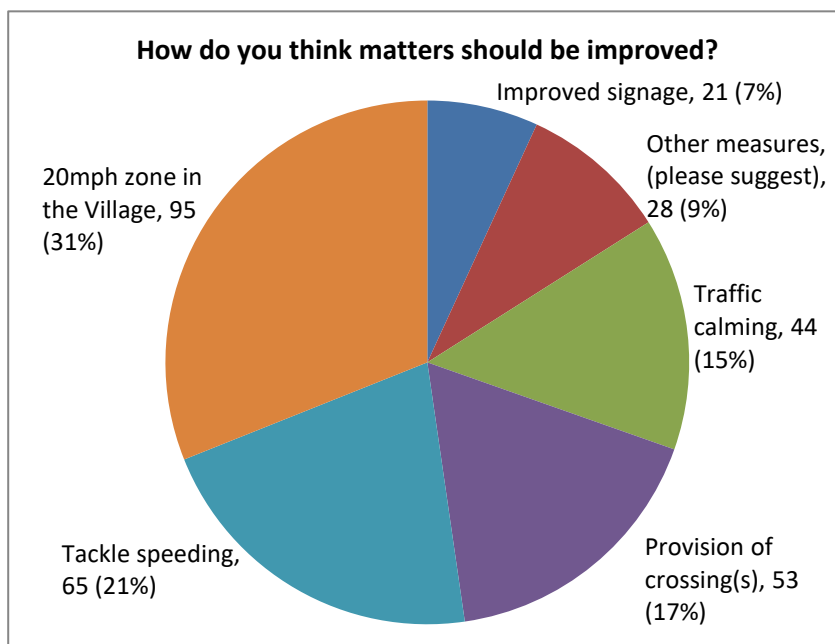
- There is an even split between people who feel that the level of traffic affects their quality of life and those that do not.



### Q4. How do you think matters could be improved?

How do you think matters could be improved?	Tick
Improved signage	21
Other measures (please suggest)	28
Traffic calming	44
Provision of crossing(s)	53
Tackle speeding	65
20mph zone in the village	95

- A lower speed limit in the village is the most favoured improvement.
- Traffic calming and tackling speeding were also favoured.



There were concerns about the impact of further traffic arising from any new development and a wish to protect the existing network of footpaths and connectivity with the surrounding countryside and to maintain and improve the well-being of local residents and visitors. It was noted that any new development will inevitably result in an increase in the number of cars in and around the village, both moving and parked, increasing the risk of conflict between road traffic, cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders, and the consequent impact of environmental pollution. The recent reduction in bus services was also raised.

Respondents also wished that the footpaths and bridleways be linked together in a more systematic way, the village circular walks signposted and cycle paths be created between Tolpuddle and Troy Town. There were several expressions that there should be a path between Greenacres and Thompson Close.

## Landscape, Natural and Historic Environment

**Q1. Please list any Puddletown 'Landmarks' (areas, places or buildings), which you think contribute to the character and identity of the Parish?**

The listed historical buildings, open views, green spaces, surrounding open fields and Puddletown Forest were widely named as being important and key features of the area by the survey's respondents.

This is a summary of typical responses:

Village square, river, Church, pub  
 Village green, Troy House, Houses around the Square  
 Cottages on the Moor, Church, Green, Surgery  
 Village Hall, Ilsington House, forest  
 The Church and burial grounds,  
 Land between Puddletown and Tincleton,  
 The Brymer Estate buildings, Recreation ground  
 Old First School, the Green, Coombe, trees  
 The Backwater, Forest, High Street listed buildings  
 The Weatherbury sign, The Old Manor, stables, old vicarage, Dawnay  
 House, Parish Room, Mill Street and meadows adjacent  
 Old Manor, Reading Room, Footpaths, Walpole Court

**Q2. Can you identify any green spaces that are important and should remain this way?**

Respondents almost unanimously cited the Green and the Recreation Ground as important local green spaces within the parish which should be protected. Many other sites were identified and there was considerable passion in the responses, which were seen again in the answers to Q3 below.



### Q3. Do you think Puddletown would benefit from additional areas being dedicated as Open Space (OS) or Green Space (GS)?

In addition to the Green and the Recreation Ground, other green spaces that respondents wanted protected are:

“woods and fields around Puddletown;  
 all green spaces need to be preserved;  
 field at the bottom right of Mill Street;  
 field between the Middle School and the woods;  
 area between Styles Lane and Blandford Road;  
 green areas adjacent to the schools;  
 land behind the south side of the High Street;  
 the large gardens and open spaces should remain in the village;  
 the cutting by the Middle School;  
 the green area to left of the Blue Vinny;  
 land between village and bypass;  
 area between Catmead and the Piddle;  
 the field on Tingleton and Athelhampton Roads;  
 the small space opposite Sherrins Green Close;  
 fields by the Recreation Ground;  
 play area at the top of Butt Close;  
 area on right past traffic lights on Blandford Road;  
 field accessed on the right of Blandford Road and the Moor;  
 land around the river banks;  
 farm land on the left as you go past the school;  
 the field behind the lower school;  
 small open spaces near cottages on the Moor;  
 the paddock at Sherrins Green  
 meadows and fields in the SHLAA sites;  
 the horse field beyond the Middle School;  
 the meadows on the river;  
 the Church;  
 all the fields visible from the main circular walk of the village;  
 green spaces are important;  
 fields at the bottom of Mill Street;  
 all areas east of Tingleton Road;  
 all green spaces within 3 miles/5km of the village should remain as they are;  
 footpath behind the Myrtles from the bridge to Blandford Road;”

the water meadows;  
 the stream;  
 land east of Millom Lane;  
 the river bank  
 play space;  
 the approaches to the village;  
 top of White Hill;  
 the school playing field;  
 gardens;  
 Celtic heritage site;  
 area at the end of Styles Lane;  
 Middle School and First School;  
 green space down by the river;  
 the Coombe  
 all existing green areas;  
 bridleways and footpaths;  
 the area around Greenacres;  
 all hedgerows;  
 Judges Meadow;  
 Puddletown forest;  
 anything in the flood plain;  
 behind the scrap store  
 Doctor’s Lane;  
 field opposite doctors;  
 paddock off the High Street;  
 Sherrins Green Close;  
 all that are on the map;  
 all land in the village centre;

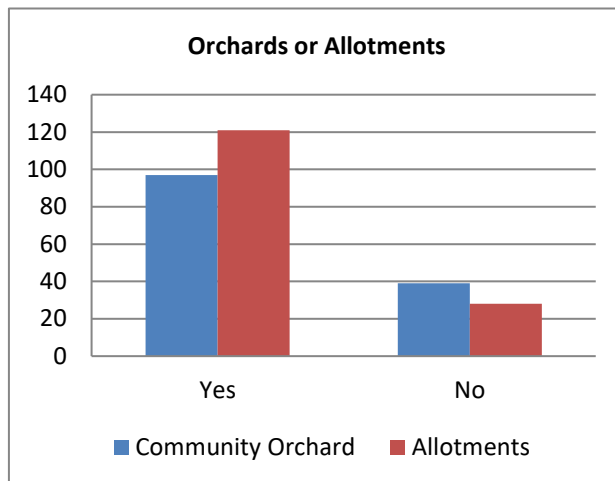
**Q4. Are there any areas in Puddletown that would benefit from tree planting?**

Respondents pointed to further planting in Puddletown Forest and other tree planting in gardens. Several commented that the village would benefit from more screening from the bypass and around the playing field.

**Q5. If possible, would you be in favour of the following facilities?**

5. If possible, would you be in favour of the following facilities?	Yes	No
Community Orchard	97	39
Allotments	121	25

- There is a positive balance in favour of both facilities.
- There is more support for allotments.



**Q6. Considering the natural environment please indicate how important you think the following are?**

6. Considering the natural environment please indicate how important you think the following are:	Very	A little	Not at all
The River Piddle	159	2	0
Puddletown Forest	157	5	0
The footpaths, bridleways and trail ways in and around the Parish	149	12	0
Hedgerows and road trees	131	26	1
The Green	130	26	3
Smaller woodlands and copses	126	31	1
Uninterrupted views (in and out)	109	39	5
Others – please indicate	12	1	1

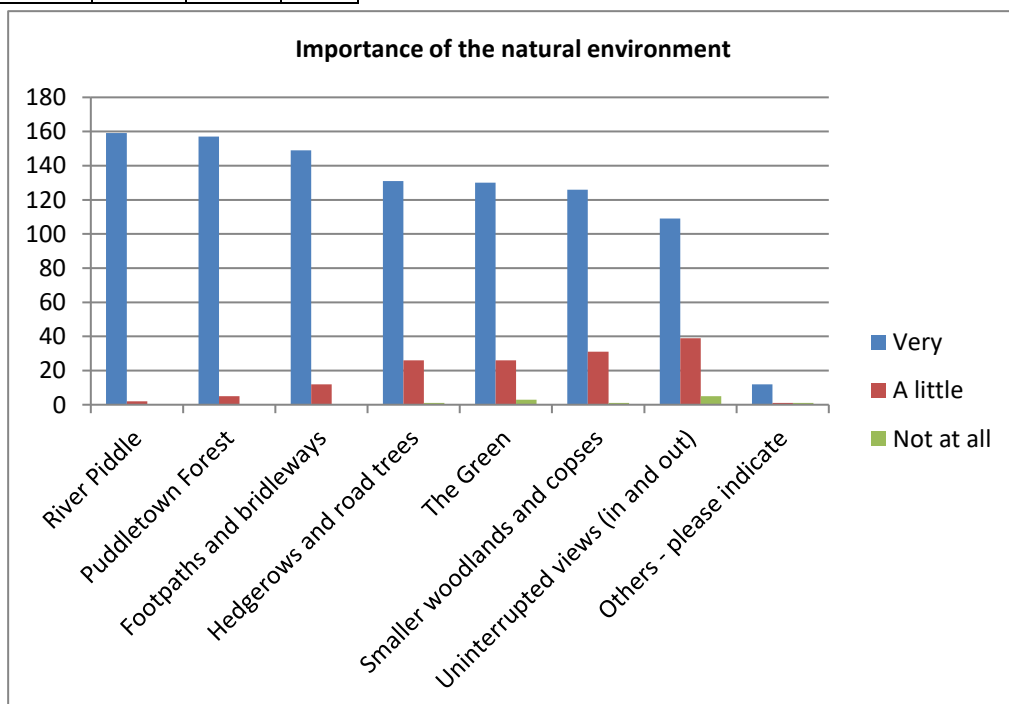
*“Wildlife”*  
*“Water meadows”*  
*“Village walks”*

*“[For] landscape protection avoid building on the tops of hills.”*

All the features have strong support

*“This is what makes a village.”*  
*“They all make a village nice.”*

*“The small open spaces.”*  
*“The Recreation Ground.”*



## Further Comments

**Water Resources and Flooding** – this was mentioned by respondents in several sections.

A number of respondents highlighted the flood risks of the village. The River Piddle runs west to east across the north of the parish and the River Frome in the same direction through the south of the area covered by the plan.



*“The flooding of the River Piddle is only getting worse. Future village development must take this into consideration”*

### Other comments.....

*“Infrastructure is not adequate for large increase of housing. Consideration should be for first time buyers or renters who have grown up in the village.”*

*“Any development bordering Millom Lane should allow for widening. Density should not exceed White Hill, density preferably less.”*

*“Building on the fields either side of the road to Tincton will expand the size of the village and create an estate that is not really in the village.”*

*“If more than limited housing allowed the access roads and water flooding situation would become large problem.”*

*“The village should not have further large scale development.”*

*“If there is more housing consideration for expansion for the First and Middle Schools needed.”*

*“If more building is agreed to the west of the village, I would be concerned that this may affect the flood plain in a detrimental way.”*

*“There is too much development current in the village. Additional building should only be carried out on the outskirts. Recent proposals in the village centre have been completely unacceptable.”*

*“When you make the decision to move into a village many things are taken into consideration. Public transport, the kind of village life you would like, hoping it doesn’t become a town.”*

*“When we moved here it was a good sized village but not too big. Hoping it will stay that way.”*

*“Not happy with bus services at present being cut.”*

*“Development within Puddletown needs careful consideration, especially green spaces.”*

*“Building on small pockets of land which do not solve the housing crisis for local people should be avoided and larger areas developed.”*

## What Next?

The data that has been gathered from this survey and other consultations will be used to inform research being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. This report can only reflect the views of those who responded. It is important now that through further and wider consultation, we capture the views of the whole community of Puddletown. We intend to contact local businesses, amenities, landowners and relevant organisations to gain insights into wider views.

However, we warmly invite you to get involved in making the Puddletown CP Neighbourhood Plan a reality, by sharing your views. Our aim is to include everyone's views and we need your help to make that happen. We will continue to focus on and engage with people, especially with those who were under-represented in this survey.

The Neighbourhood Planning process has a structure guided by the Department for Communities and Local Government which includes some compulsory steps which are managed by the local planning authority – in our case West Dorset District Council. We are now in the process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. When we have done this, the Local Planning Authority, WDDC, will organise both the independent examination of the plan and the community referendum that will be held to decide if the plan is brought into force.

The referendum is an important step, allowing those that live in the neighbourhood area to decide if the Neighbourhood Plan comes into effect.

# Puddletown

# Neighbourhood Plan

## Report from the 2016 survey