

## **Northill Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

The following sentences illustrate the flavour of main comments made during consultation. There are a mixture of direct quotes and summaries. The sentences are not intended to be the sum total of comments received.

### **HOUSING**

**You said: A range of housing type is required, affordable housing is needed, quality of build and improved housing infrastructure is important.**

Our communities are ageing so opportunities for more young people to move here and have families will be crucial to restore the balance of age groups and ensure the continuation of the local school and pre-school facilities. Availability of suitable and affordable housing will be central to enabling this demographic rebalancing.

Small, cheaper houses should be built for first time buyers and to enable young people who currently live in the villages to continue to live here as they grow up.

Small housing developments should be divided between all parts of parish.

Small development of affordable houses along roadside only-“frontage development”

Keep village development linear but do not join up villages/hamlets – they require a separate identity.

Good quality & well insulated buildings- eco friendly. Good landscaping.

Housing needs to blend in with the surrounding area.

### **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

**You said: New and/or improved play areas and community facilities are required together with allotments.**

PFA additional play equipment – improve what’s there.

Younger play facilities in Ickwell and Northill.

We need allotments locally at an affordable price please.

Great to have a community orchard accessible for all ages.

Maintain post office and shop in Upper Caldecote.

Would like a café either alone or within an existing shop.

### **BUSINESS**

**You said: Small business was appropriate.**

Don’t want major industry- infrastructure does not support it.

Parish needs effective broadband and mobile phone connection.

New business units with high dependency on transport (heavy goods) need to be situated near A1.....so do not have to travel through villages.

Proper working facilities throughout all parts of the parish – parish buildings for home workers to rent.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**You said: The landscape and wildlife in the parish should be managed, maintained and conserved. The village greens need to be retained, managed and protected. The rural parish should be preserved. There are arguments for and against renewable energy.**

Green spaces surrounding the villages need protecting because they attract tourists, people love walking their dogs and riding there, the wildlife can flourish and be protected.

All natural areas, fields and trees in the parish should be preserved.

Stop people parking on village greens.

No development on any agricultural land. Agricultural land is "high quality" and would be lost forever.

Protect the medieval fishponds.

All new affordable housing must have solar panels which feeds in to the National Grid and credits the Parish Council for use in community projects.

## **HERITAGE**

**You said: Preserve old and historic buildings and sites in the parish**

Need a list of listed and old buildings in Parish. Want to retain and maintain these historic buildings as heritage.

Requirements of Central Bedfordshire for heritage issues need to be realistic in terms of affordability and availability.

## **GETTING ABOUT**

**You said: We need new and improved rights of way, safe access to Biggleswade and a footway between Ickwell and Upper Caldecote**

There should be a circular route around the Parish by footpath (cycle, horses, pedestrians /dogs) which joins up existing footpaths.

All footpaths should be upgraded to cycle paths.

Improved crossing access for pedestrians over the A1.

Need to be able to walk to Biggleswade safely.

Easier footpath access from UC to Ickwell/Northill.

## **WATER MANAGEMENT**

**YOU SAID: Flooding and drainage are significant problems in the parish**

Improve quality and coverage of maintenance particularly of ditches that drain villages.

Sewerage issues a concern- smells at Caldecote Crossroads and Biggleswade Rd.

All new builds should not put additional pressure on already challenged sewage facilities.

Investigate and plan resolution of flooding problems and sewage issues throughout the parish especially in order to accommodate increased flow from further housing development.