

The Proposed Eglington Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Analysis of the Results of the Initial Consultation September – October 2019

Introduction

Between September and October 2019, the Steering Group established by Eglington Parish Council conducted a consultation on the Proposed Eglington Parish Neighbourhood plan, supported by a base of existing evidence, in relation to the Parish area, largely supplied by Northumberland County Council. A copy of the questionnaire and the background information on which the consultation was based are available on the Parish Council's website: <http://www.eglington.info/nplan>

Those documents and their content are not repeated, here, but may be referred to when noting the following summary of the consultation's outcome. For a more detailed, tabulated summary of the responses, see the document '*Analysis of the results of the Draft Eglington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Initial Consultation/Questionnaire*' (referred to below as 'the tabular analysis'), also downloaded to the Parish website. That document has, of course, been anonymised. A summary of the small number of '*Additional Comments*' (unmanageable to show, in full, on the published spreadsheet) appears, below.

Consultation Outcomes

It is believed that all residents and businesses within the Parish were notified of the consultation and had the opportunity to respond.

The following breakdown shows the number of individual respondents (including those whose submissions were on behalf of businesses) and their location:

- Eglington: 75;
- South Charlton: 20;
- North Charlton: 2;
- Outside the Parish' boundaries: 6 (N.B. those in this category were either resident immediately adjacent to the Parish boundaries or had continuing, close association with the Parish).

Noting that, inevitably, some respondents chose to limit their answers on particular subjects (e.g. settlement boundaries) to the settlement in which they resided or conducted business, the broad results show, in relation to the main topics for which Neighbourhood plan policies are proposed:

Settlement Boundaries

The consultation responses showed substantial support for the reintroduction of settlement boundaries in Eglington and South Charlton (73%). In North Charlton, both respondents favoured the introduction of a settlement boundary. The exact, revised settlement boundaries upon which the Steering Group is minded to proceed will be the subject of the next round of consultation.

Introduction of a Design Code

Again, there was substantial support for this proposal at 81%, overall. This being a technical area of expertise, the Steering Group commissioned AECOM to produce the code. AECOM are required to work to a strict timetable which has made a further round of consultation on the document produced, impracticable. However, the Steering Group believes that the final document represents a sound basis for the guidance of development in the Parish and, at its meeting on 26th August, the PC adopted the code, pending formal adoption of the Neighbourhood plan, itself. The Design Code is available on the Parish website and, in hard copy, at each of Eglingham and South Charlton Village.

The Identification of 'Local Greenspace'

Again, there was substantial support for this at 85%, overall. Similar to the case of settlement boundaries, the Steering Group's suggestions as to the actual areas to be identified will be the subject of the next round of consultation.

'Valued Landscape'

Across the Parish, the consultation results indicated a very high level of support (89%) for the local designation of our landscapes as of high value, subject to professional appraisal. The landscape consultants commissioned by the Steering Group to carry out that evaluation have produced a draft report which will be subject to its own consultation, before its finalisation.

Housing

79% of respondents said their existing housing met their needs. In addition, the County Council's Strategic Housing Assessment concludes that the Parish's existing housing provision exceeds its needs and neither does it identify any material need for affordable housing in the Parish. On that basis, the Steering Group did not commission its own Strategic Housing Assessment as it was felt the substantial expense would be unjustified. Subsequently, a commercial developer has indicated an intention to carry out a survey of affordable housing need, in relation to a proposed development at South Charlton (although this may extend beyond the Parish). The Steering Group proposes to await the outcome of that survey and to consider any amendments to the approach of the Neighbourhood plan in that context.

Impact of Heavy Lorries etc.

Although the issue is not one which the Neighbourhood plan is permitted to formally address, the consultation indicated a substantial level of concern in relation to it (over 60% in both Eglingham and South Charlton). Outside the Neighbourhood plan,

the Parish Council hopes to pursue its concerns in this regard, with the County Council.

Other Comments

A small number of respondents made '*Additional Comments*'. One sought larger houses on the basis that his/her own was too small; several highlighted the need for 'energy efficiency'; a similar number emphasised concerns about 'speeding' heavy lorries; and three suggested that Eglingham's war memorial be designated as 'Local Greenspace'.

Summary

In broad terms, the Steering Group were encouraged by the wide support for the central proposals for the Neighbourhood plan. As explained, above, further consultation will serve to refine the proposed policies. Members of the Steering Group are available to answer any further questions in relation to the original consultation outcomes or other aspects of the emerging Neighbourhood plan (see, again, the Parish website for details).

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