**BULMER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – NEWSLETTER No:2**

The working group commissioned Pickersgill Consulting and Planning Ltd (PCP) to conduct a Survey of the Parish residents as the first step in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. This was completed in November and the results submitted just before Christmas; a brief summary follows:

* The Parish has 84 households with an adult population of 164. 69 responses were received from 54 different households. PCP considered this a sufficient response for the views to be taken to reasonably represent the views of all households. There are approximately 30 rented properties, just over one third. Just under one third of the respondents rented their property, suggesting that the results were a reasonable representation of housing tenure in the Parish.
* The population is elderly, almost three quarters over 55, with not quite 2 adults per household and few children. All respondents had at least one car and 20% made occasional use of the bus / train services, only 10% saying they would use the Castleline bus more if the frequency was increased.
* Nearly two thirds of the respondents had lived in the village for at least 10 years and few intended moving in the near future. Generally they were happy living in the Parish siting its friendly community, its quietness and countryside location, but concerned about the facilities, particularly those for children. Problems with speeding vehicles, mobile phone reception, footpath maintenance and dog fouling were raised.
* Limited development in the next 20 years was favoured, no one wanted more than 20 houses, a quarter wanted no extra houses and 77% wanted none or no more than 10 houses. 2 bedroom starter homes, 3 bedroom family homes and bungalows were seen as the most appropriate. Only conservation of existing buildings or new houses conforming to the conservation area style would be acceptable. In-fill development or new houses on the eastern edge of the village were preferred with only 22% suggesting development on the western edge.
* At least three quarters rated sustainable drainage, appropriate design, off-street parking and safe access as very important in any development. Commercial development, Leisure facilities and allotments were not considered important. Two fifths of respondents thought there would be no benefits from development. One fifth thought that it would bring children to the village and broaden the spread of ages.
* 12 of the 20 tenants completing the Survey, claimed they would like to buy a house in Bulmer but were prevented because of the high house prices. 29% claimed to know someone who would like to live in the Parish, but who couldn’t because of house prices, rental charges or lack of affordable homes. 64% favoured the allocation of sites for affordable homes but 29% strongly disagreed.
* The Howardian and word of mouth were rated as very useful as sources of community news and information. The Parish Noticeboards and Website were rated as quite useful. 80% or more felt that the landscape generally, the views and wildlife were very important to the character of the Parish. The other 20% thought they were quite important.

This is a very brief summary of the Survey. To see the whole Survey please look at the Parish Council website <https://bulmer-pc.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan/> or if you would prefer a paper copy contact the Clerk Will Heyes on will.heyes@bulmer-pc.co.uk or 07891 288285.

Thank you

The Bulmer Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

on behalf of Bulmer Parish Council.