

Aveton Gifford Neighbourhood Plan

Introduction

As part of the consultation process for the development of the neighbourhood plan for the Aveton Gifford Parish, it is vital for the team tasked with drawing up the plan to ensure that the wider community:

- Is kept fully informed of what is being proposed
- Is able to make their views known throughout the process
- Has opportunities to be actively involved in shaping the emerging neighbourhood plan or Order
- Is made aware of how their views have informed the draft neighbourhood plan or Order

In order to meet these requirements, the working group organised a public consultation day on 20th February 2016. This provided the opportunity to explain to the public what the neighbourhood plan is and gave people the opportunity to submit their views for inclusion in the development of the document. This day provided the bulk of comments which will inform the next stage of the process, but in addition to this, further contributions are being sought and encouraged via the village website, Facebook and the village shop.

Methodology

The working group explained the Neighbourhood Plan to attendees and then asked them to provide comments covering the following areas:

- Future Housing Development
- Facilities in Aveton Gifford
- Village Access and Roads
- The Future
- Open Spaces
- Conservation
- Education and Employment
- The best of Aveton Gifford
- “Everything Else”

Further comments were added via the village shop and within each of these areas, the comments were then categorised and analysed. The working group has also sought to engage local land owners and businesses in order to understand their views.

Where comments had been submitted to the incorrect section e.g a comment about roads in the Open Spaces section, these were moved to the correct area.

Results

There were 788 comments received – 783 from the consultation day and 5 submitted via the shop. The breakdown of these comments by area is shown below, ranked by the number of comments:

Topic	Comments
Future Housing Development	100
Facilities in Aveton Gifford	124
Village Access and Roads.	181
The Future	73
Open Spaces	99
Conservation	59
Education and Employment	45
The Best of AG	96
Everything Else	11
TOTAL	788

Within all of these areas the following topics were the most mentioned:

Category	Number of Comments
a) Car Parking: roads/ car park/ suggestions/other	53
a) Community Spirit:	38
b) Village Hall- Renovate/ Re-build/Uses/ Other	33
a) Bridge : Footbridge over Avon: pro/against/ other	33
c) Speed- bumps: for/against/other traffic calming	29
c) Location AONB:	27
f) Broadband	25
b) One-way System: for/against/ other	24
k) For new houses	23
j)Tidal road	23

The following breaks down these results further, by area, showing the types of comments raised.

Future Housing Development

Topic	Count	%
a) Affordable Homes-	22	22%
b) Self-Build –	12	12%
c) More Rental homes-	2	2%
d) Opposed to any new development	12	12%
e) Do Historic buildings precedent New?	4	4%
f) Land for new development- Suggestions for/against	0	0%
g) Holiday Homes : for/against?	7	7%
h) Sheltered Housing	2	2%
i) Any other ideas/ concerns.	16	16%
j) In wrong section	0	0%
k) For new houses	23	23%
TOTAL	100	100%

Mostly fairly predictable, there were multiple comments both for and against any development of any size, and those for development (of varied types).

Significant comments that local needs should be met as a priority, and holiday homes to be discouraged.

There were a few very specific areas within the village which drew adverse comment regarding suitability for development.

There were also a handful of comments which were not relevant to NP, but should be passed on to the Parish Council for action/comment.

Facilities in Aveton Gifford

Topic	Count	%
a) Shop and Post –Office	14	11%
b) Village Hall- Renovate/ Re-build/Uses/ Other	33	27%
c) Church	3	2%
d) Pub	5	4%
e) Swimming pool: For/ against	10	8%
f) Broadband	25	20%
g) Outdoor sports facilities: Skate-park/ tennis courts/ / other.	15	12%
h) Football Pitch: Astro turf: for/against/other	1	1%
i) Public Toilets	7	6%
j) Other.	11	9%
k) In wrong section.	0	0%
TOTAL	124	100%

There were 124 unique points raised across several topics. The main area of interest with 27% of comments was how the village hall should be changed, updated or relocated.

The next most prevalent topic was the issue of broadband, or the lack thereof. Whilst not a direct planning issue, the village infrastructure will be key to bringing new people and especially business to the parish and as such is important.

Over half the people commenting on the outdoor sports facilities were in favour of AG having a skate park and many people praised the existing facilities. The swimming pool was also seen as very important to the community.

People again were very complimentary about the shop and stressed the importance of it to the community.

Village Access and Roads

Topic	Count	%
a) Car Parking: roads/ car park/ suggestions/other	53	29%
b) One-way System: for/against/ other	24	13%
c) Speed- bumps: for/against/other traffic calming	29	16%
d) Bus Route: Through village/ out of village/ other	15	8%
e) Speed restrictions on A379	12	7%
f) Tidal Road speed restrictions: for/ against/ pedestrian priority/pot holes/ other	15	8%
g) Yellow Lines:	2	1%
h) Other Road concerns:	20	11%
i) In wrong section	0	0%
J) Speed Limits	4	2%
K) Commercial Traffic	7	4%
TOTAL	181	100%

The issue of car parking and traffic flow through the village dominated the comments. With regard to the lack of parking spaces, the vast majority were in favour of expanding the existing car parks (predominantly the memorial hall car park) with some comments advocating a new car park. Another popular theme was the need to keep resident parking free in both village car parks.

With regard to traffic calming, the trend was in favour of maintaining or increasing the number of speed bumps.

There was also a fair amount of interest in the idea of making the village one way, to help with traffic flow, although some people raised the concern that it may increase traffic speed through the village.

Several comments raised the need to reduce commercial / large vehicle access to the village.

The Future

Topic	Count	%
a) Bridge : Footbridge over Avon: pro/against/ other	33	45%
b) Access to Bantham/ water	7	10%
c) Community renewable energy (wind/water/solar): for/against	16	22%
d) Mains gas/other energy	9	12%
e) Business premises: for/against/other	4	5%
f) Other	4	5%
g) In wrong section	0	0%
TOTAL	73	100%

In this section 45% of comments related to the bridge over the Avon and a further 22% community energy projects.

The views expressed on having a bridge across the Avon were heavily in favour of the idea. There were also a few people wanting this to include a cycle track. One person even suggested trying to get the Army to build the bridge as a training exercise.

With regard to the Community Renewable Energy topic, 15 out of 16 comments related to green energy generation. Of these 12 were in favour of a green energy scheme, with the most focus being place on wind generators, with some solar and one vote for tidal energy. Of the people who opposed this only one person qualified their views by saying that wind power was no longer viable. One person requested a charge point for electric cars.

Open Spaces

Topic	Count	%
a) Football Pitch- drainage	4	4%
b) Footpaths- requirements and suggestions/ concerns	14	14%
c) Timbers car park- security/ uses/ water-craft storage/ Tidying	1	1%
d) Moorings	5	5%
e) Estuary: suggestions/ concerns	14	14%
f) Dog Walking: concerns/requirements	10	10%
g) Bantham Estates	1	1%
h) Other	9	9%
i) In wrong section	0	0%
j)Tidal road	23	23%
k) Play Areas	18	18%
TOTAL	99	100%

Open Spaces had nearly 100 comments.

On the 'Estuary' there seemed to be a lot in favour of secure storage for boats and kayaks. (This may have been a campaign). Moorings for villagers and I suppose Parish people.

The 'Tidal Road' is very popular and the overwhelming requests were for speed limits to be imposed there. Also to prioritise the tidal road for pedestrian and cycle use.

Footpaths around AG pleased quite a few and the proposed (now completed) hard path around the football pitch gets the nod of approval with several requests for more mud free paths in the village (rectory lawn).

Play Areas were approved of generally and there were some requests for more. Basketball. Outdoor gym equipment, and a skateboarding area (said to popular with boys). A couple asked for football field to be drained.

Dog walking generally pleased with facilities in AG, with several comments saying keep dogs on leads in play areas.

I think the tidal road will feature prominently in our Neighbourhood Plan, and this and the other items referred to the PC and Parish Appraisal

Conservation

Topic	Count	%
a) Wildlife provision/issues	11	19%
b) Trees: planting/ maintenance/felling	13	22%
c) Dredging and clearance	5	8%
d) Industrial Impact-Bridge/other	4	7%
e) Chemical pollution	5	8%
f) Heritage: phone box/stocks/ old buildings	11	19%
g) Other	10	17%
h) In wrong section	0	0%
TOTAL	59	100%

The topic of conservation had a more even split of comments when compared to other areas. Approaching 40% of the comments were relating to nature conservation (provision and maintenance of habitats) and trees. The majority of comments relating to the trees, were requesting better maintenance.

Of the heritage comments the vast majority were relating to the preservation of the character of the village and ensuring landmarks like the stocks are kept.

Education and Employment

Topic	Count	%
a) More employment opportunities: for/against	10	22%
b) Community information boards	3	7%
c) Business/ Office/Studio facilities:	4	9%
d) Holiday trade etc: pro/against	7	16%
e) School Community:	18	40%
f) Designated School buses:	0	0%
g) Other	3	7%
h) In wrong section	0	0%
TOTAL	45	100%

The biggest topic in this section was relating to the school. People were keen to see greater integration with the community and greater provision in wrap around care.

There was general encouragement for growing the small business opportunities and community in Aveton Gifford, although some people were concerned on the impact / aesthetics of any new business premises.

There was a split in opinion with regard to holiday homes, although people were more in favour of B&Bs than second homes.

The Best of Aveton Gifford

Topic	Count	%
a) Community Spirit:	38	40%
b) Facilities:	20	21%
c) Location AONB:	27	28%
d) In wrong section	0	0%
e) Shop	4	4%
f) School	1	1%
g) Church	3	3%
h) Other	3	3%
TOTAL	96	100%

The main focus of comments in this section were relating to appreciation of life in Aveton Gifford. The spirit and sense of community was seen as a massively positive aspect of living in the parish and the fact that it was a beautiful location was also noted.

The large number of facilities available within the village are seen as a real benefit and are very much appreciated.

Despite a large number of comments in this section, the vast majority were quite general in nature and did not include specific recommendations or points for action.

Everything Else

Topic	Count	%
a) Barking dogs guidelines	2	18%
b) Community orchard/ wood	3	27%
c) Hovercraft to Bantham	2	18%
d) Youth Club	2	18%
e) Volunteers needed to do parish jobs	1	9%
f) Holiday visitors take own rubbish away	1	9%
TOTAL	11	100%

The vast majority of comments in “Everything Else” were reallocated to their correct, respective sections. This left only a handful of comments which could not provide much useful input into the process.