

CASSINGTON
PARISH
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN

June 2022

CONSULTATION STATEMENT

Published by Cassington Parish Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning
(General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

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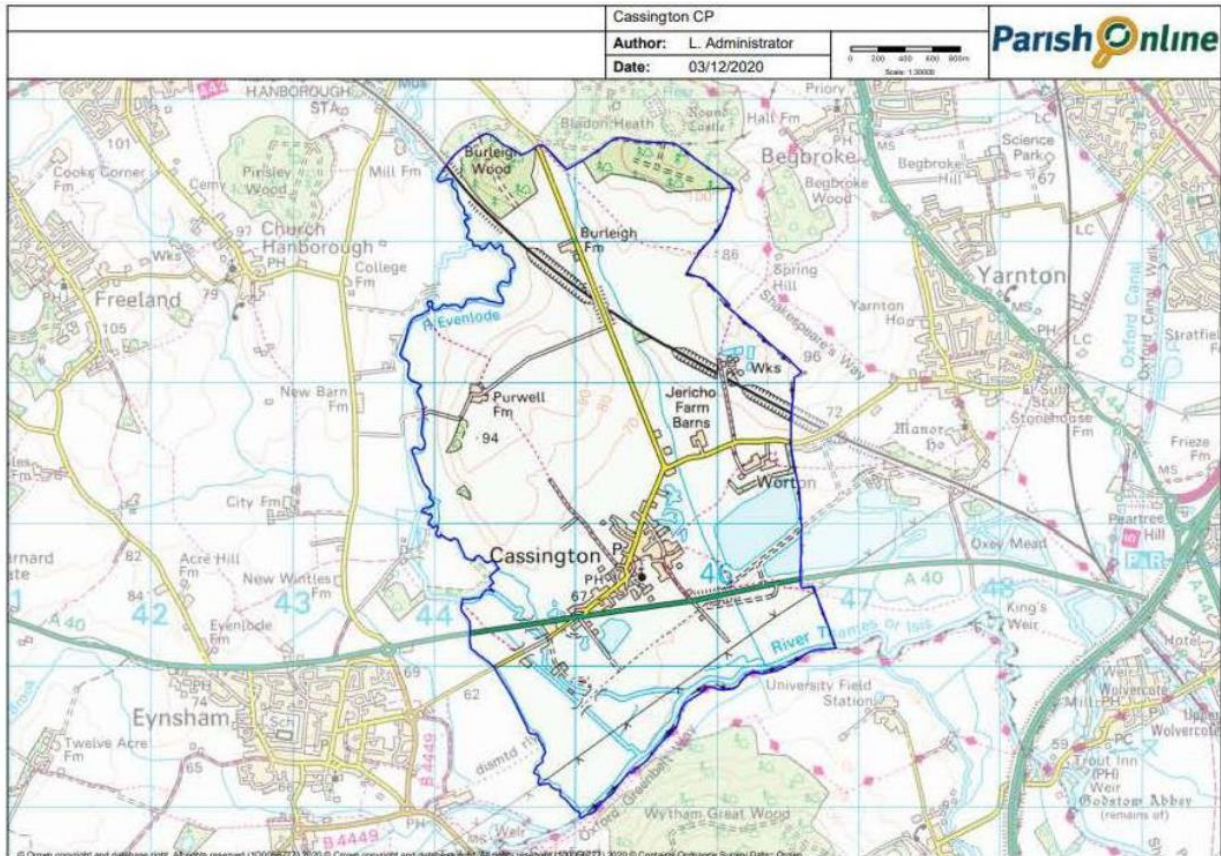
1.0 Introduction

1.1 This consultation statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) in respect of Cassington Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2031. The legal basis of this Statement is provided by Section 15 (2) of Part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, which requires that a consultation statement should:

- Contain details of the persons and bodies that were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Plan;
- Explain how they were consulted;
- Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- Describe how those issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation

1.2 Cassington Parish Council ('the Parish Council') has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan ('Cassington NP') for the area designated by the local planning authority, West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC), in December 2020 (see Plan A below).



Plan A: Cassington Designated Neighbourhood Area

2. The Consultation Process

Timeline of events

- 1.3 The timeline of events below demonstrates the evolution of the Cassington NP.
- 1.4 Ongoing communications and feedback have been undertaken through regular updates via face-to-face and virtual meetings with the Cassington Parish Council, and Cassington and Worton News which is distributed to all Cassington residents each month. The Parish Council has received and noted minutes and a monthly update from its Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. All materials published in the Cassington and Worton News (CAWN) as well as copies of the concurrent Neighbourhood Plan and Green Infrastructure Plan have been published and are available via the Cassington Parish Council website (<https://cassington-pc.gov.uk/>).
- 1.5 It is noted that throughout 2020 and 2021 activities related to the development of the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan were complicated by the COVID pandemic. This meant that person-to-person consultations were limited at times as a result of requirements for social isolation.

2020

- November 2020, the Parish Council decided to begin the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan and resolved to set up a Neighbourhood Plan Committee.
- The Parish Council then looked for volunteers to set up a Neighbourhood Planning Committee formed by one member of the Parish Council and the rest of the Committee by Cassington residents with different skill sets to contribute to formulating the plan.
- December 2020 neighbourhood area designation

2021

In January a consultancy, Oneill Homer (Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire) was appointed by the Parish Council to assist with development of the Neighbourhood Plan in Consultation with the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Planning Committee.

- In February 2021 the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee took place.
- During early 2021 Oneill Homer met with the Neighbourhood Planning Committee to advise on development of the Green Infrastructure Plan and also the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Parish Council were kept apprised of progress in development of the Neighbourhood Plan through monthly reporting at Parish Council Meetings.
- During the months from January to May the Green Infrastructure plan, the outline of the Neighbourhood Plan and a questionnaire for Cassington residents were prepared.

- In April residents were informed via an article in the Cassington and Worton News (CAWN; see Appendix A) discussing the Neighbourhood plan, outlining the main points of the first Neighbourhood Planning Committee meeting and asking for input from the residents of the village.
- In June a scoping document for the Neighbourhood Plan was circulated to the Parish Council.
- In the June copy of CAWN the meeting to present the Green Infrastructure Plan and the early draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was advertised.
- The Green Infrastructure Plan and Neighbourhood Plan were presented to the public, mainly villagers, on the 26th June, 2021 at the Cassington Village Hall. This meeting was aimed at informing the village on the contents of the Green Infrastructure Plan and Neighbourhood Plan which was being put together by O'Neill Homer for the Parish Council. It included a presentation on the Green Infrastructure Plan and Neighbourhood Plan and a display of the slides in the presentation as A3 posters for viewing by the public. A questionnaire on the Green Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Plans was also put together to obtain feedback for further input to both the Green Infrastructure and Neighbourhood plans (see Appendix B). Any verbal feedback from the meeting was also noted for inclusion.
- For those not able to attend the meeting, the presentation, the Green Infrastructure Plan and the Questionnaire were all placed on the Parish Council website. This was noted in the July issue of CAWN.
- In CAWN in August there was a brief outline of the June event and another call for villagers to fill out the questionnaire (see Appendix A).
- The slides for the presentation were also displayed in the Sports Pavillion during the late summer Cassington Picnic for the village on the 4th September, 2021 and further questionnaires distributed for attending residents.
- The questionnaire was also circulated in the September 2021 issue of the Cassington and Worton News (CAWN), the village magazine which is circulated by post to most residents of the village. A short article was also written for this issue of CAWN (see Appendix A).
- In October the final analysis of the questionnaires was undertaken and modifications where necessary made to the Neighbourhood plan and Green Infrastructure Plan.
- In late October the draft Neighbourhood Plan was sent to West Oxfordshire District Council.
- West Oxfordshire District Council advised that there was no need for a SEA (Strategic Environment Assessment) or HRA (Habitats Regulations Assessment).
- Because it was anticipated the Cassington Parish Council would approve the draft Neighbourhood Plan in early December the Regulation 14 Notice was published in CAWN and circulated to Statutory Consultees with a deadline of the 18th February to respond. The details of the notice are outlined in Appendix A.

2022

- The Cassington Parish Council delayed approval of the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan until after the December break.
- Because of a delay in the Parish Council approving the draft Neighbourhood Plan the Regulation 14 Notice was published again and the deadline extended to 28th February. A further Regulation 14 Notice was published in CAWN in January (see Appendix A).
- Whilst most responses to the Regulation 14 Notice were received it was necessary to consult further with West Oxfordshire District Council to seek clarity on unclear feedback and to get feedback from all relevant departments.
- A meeting was arranged for May for the Cassington Neighbourhood Planning Committee and Oneill Homer to discuss the responses to the Regulation 14 Notice.
- May / June – Final revisions of the draft proposal for the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan.

Public and Stakeholder Consultation

1.6 The Neighbourhood Plan Committee has been keen to ensure that the plan provides local residents with a voice as to how their community should grow and be sustainable, whilst continuing to be the strong and vibrant community that exists today.

1.7 Engaging with the community included:

- Holding a workshop to inform the community of the Neighbourhood and Green Infrastructure plans
- Regular updates in the Cassington and Worton News from the Parish Council
- Additional and lengthier articles in the Cassington and Worton News explaining what a Neighbourhood and Green Infrastructure plans were
- A paper survey circulated to residents of Cassington including local businesses
- Regular Steering Group Meetings
- Monthly updates to the Parish Council
-

using the following communication channels:

- Social media – Facebook
- Direct public presentations and poster displays of presentations
- Parish Council Website
- Local media – Cassington and Worton News – a monthly local magazine which is distributed to every household in the village
- Email (Statutory Consultees)
- Parish Council Meetings

1.8 In November 2020 the Parish Council agreed to develop a Neighbourhood Plan as the way of positively engaging with planning bodies and developers. The Parish Council set up a Steering Group made up of one Parish Councillors and local residents. This group worked with a consultancy (Oneill Homer) to draft and initial Neighbourhood Plan and Green Infrastructure Plan. In April 2021 a call was made for input to the Neighbourhood Plan from Cassington residents via the Cassington and Worton News. The initial drafts of the two plans were presented to the public in a public meeting in June. This was held all day to give people an opportunity to listen to presentations on the plans and to read through the presentation as a series of posters. A further meeting presentation of the posters was made in the Sports and Social Club at a summer social event in September.

1.9 These ideas, including a Draft vision and priorities were tested with the community in the in the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan survey using the channels listed previously. A total of 60 questionnaires were received, all participants were residents. Given the size of the village (about 300 homes) and assuming ~ 2 adults per household (consistent with the data from the survey) this would indicate that about 10% of the adult population of the village has responded. This is comparable to the usual rate of response for surveys of this type (5-10%). With regard to the priorities, the consultation established the community's priorities as follows (full analysis is available in Appendix C):

- The areas of flood risk mitigation, traffic issues, maintaining the character of the village and maintaining its outdoor spaces were all viewed as important by the majority of respondents. Biodiversity and climate mitigation were viewed as less of a priority, although they still scored highly for the majority of village residents.
- Almost all the current village amenities were considered highly important to the respondents with the school, the village hall, the green spaces, allotment and sports pavilion and sports field being given the highest ratings. The MUGA pitch and the outdoor exercise machines in the sports field were given a lower importance probably reflecting use by a smaller proportion of people in the village.

1.10 Additionally, the survey highlighted the main issues

were:

Traffic safety

- Views on traffic safety through the village were quite mixed with residents commenting particularly on the speed of traffic and in some cases the narrowness of the footways and road in places.
- It is notable that more than 40% of residents considered that the village roads were unsafe.
- Various recommendations were made from introducing traffic calming measures, to decreasing the speed limit through the village to 20mph and installing a pedestrian crossing between the Red Lion pub and the village green for use particularly by children.
- Improvements to the junction between Bell Lane and the Cassington – Yarnton Road was also mentioned.

Housing and development

- Most respondents suggested a moderate level of development for the village (10-20

houses per decade).

- Most support was for 1-2 bedroom houses (up to £250,000 value) and for affordable family homes (up to 3 bedrooms, £350,000 value; Figure 9). This is highly consistent with the views identified in the Parish Council survey of housing needs in the village undertaken in late 2020.
- Respondents expressed a preference for “brownfield” or infill building sites in the village with least support for building on amenity space such as the allotments, village greens and sports field.
- There was a low level of support for building on surrounding land (largely agricultural land). This is consistent with national and local policies on building in green belt areas and consistent with the Green Infrastructure Plan.
- A need for accessible and adaptable housing was identified during the public presentations of the draft Green Infrastructure and Neighbourhood plans arising from an ageing population but also for disabled residents.

Travel and transport

- The overwhelming view from residents was that Cassington suffered from a significant lack of sustainable transport options.
- The largest need identified was for improved connectivity to regular bus services.
- Second in terms of priority is improved cycle path links with several mentioning a cycle link to Long Hanborough and the railway station as being particularly useful but also links to Yarnton and through to Botley in Oxford.
- One respondent mentioned the need for a rail line, presumably referring to the idea of a new light railway linking Witney, Eynsham, Yarnton and Oxford via Cassington.
- Improvement in provision and maintenance of footpaths is also mentioned.
- Two residents suggested installation of EV Charging Points in the Village Hall Car Park.

Local Amenities

- The most important amenity considered as missing by residents of Cassington was the existence of a village shop.

1.11 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group presented the findings to Cassington Parish Council at its meeting in December 2021. A final version was placed on the Cassington Parish Council Website in January 2022.

1.12 The engagement process aimed to involve as many local people as possible throughout the various consultation stages so that the Plan was shaped and informed by the views and knowledge of local people and other stakeholders. Cassington Parish Council was kept apprised of progress. We note that Covid presented problems with consultation throughout the period of development of the plan.

Pre-Submission Consultation Process

1.13 The Pre-Submission Plan was published as per the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Part 5 Regulation 14 (a), through the channels outlined above, and to the list of organisations as per Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Part 5 Regulation 14 (b) – see Appendix D for the list of consultees. Copies of the Pre-Submission Plan were sent to West Oxfordshire District Council as per Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Part 5 Regulation (c).

1.14 The consultation period lasted for 6 weeks. During this time the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan Committee met several times with Oneill Homer to discuss comments received on the Neighbourhood Plan and responses to them.

3 Pre-Submission Feedback Summary

3.1 The Pre-Submission Plan consultation generated comments from a number of organisations, including West Oxfordshire District Council, and the neighbouring community of Eynsham.

3.2 The Steering Group assessed each of the responses with advice coming from Oneill Homer. Although the comments have not challenged the fundamental principles of the Plan, they have required time to consider how to make those changes.

3.3 The following recommendations were made for changes to the Neighbourhood Plan:

Policy CAS1: Nature Recovery Network

- Oxfordshire County Council amendments to supporting text on mineral workings have been made.
- West Oxfordshire District Council's (WODC) amendments to policy wording have been made.

Policy CAS2: Active and Sustainable Transport

- WODC amendments to policy wording have partly been made.

Policy CAS5: Design Code for Cassington Village

- Historic England's amendments to Design Code wording have been made.

Policy CAS6: Locally Listed Buildings

- WODC amendments to policy wording have been made.

Policy CAS8: Zero Carbon Building

- The policy and its supporting text have been updated to bring it up to date.

Policy CAS9: Infill Residential Development

- The supporting text has been updated to clarify the purpose of the policy.

Policy CAS10: Affordable Housing

- The policy wording and supporting text has been updated to clarify the purpose of the policy and WODC's recommendations on amendments to tenure mix have been made.

3.4 The recommendations were discussed at Steering Group meetings in April and May
Cassington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement July 2022

2022 and it was agreed that no further amendments should be made.

4 Appendices

4.1 Appendix A Articles on the Neighbourhood Plan in Cassington and Worton News (CAWN)

April 2021

Cassington Neighbourhood Plan Neighbourhood Plans are an important democratic process at the local level, aimed to give residents of a particular area or, in our case village, a say in the way future development takes place.

The objective is to understand what people want and need in terms of the future of their place of living. Neighbourhood Plans are very important in the context of the West Oxfordshire District Plan as they give locals an important say in any future development of settlements classed as Villages, which includes Cassington. As we have already seen, without a Neighbourhood Plan, villages have little defence against developers. Adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan is a formal process and requires approval by the District Council.

On the 22nd February the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan Committee met for the first time. The village was represented by Ian Finlay, Anne Luttmann-Johnson and Alex Rogers, with Tracey Cameron, the Parish Clerk, taking notes for the Parish Council. Also present were Neil Homer and Leani Haim from Oneil Homer, a company which has consulted on about 150 Neighbourhood Plans.

The first meeting was to scope what would be required in the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan. Issues affecting the Parish were discussed including problems, threats and opportunities for the future. The main concerns raised included over-development of the village, traffic, local flooding and drainage.

Neil and Leani applied what they had learned from previous Neighbourhood Planning activities.

Most interesting was the fact that West Oxfordshire District Council appear to have completely neglected the village in terms of an impact assessment of surrounding development at Eynsham/ Salt Cross (3,200 houses) and Yarnton / Begbroke (up to 4,400 houses) on traffic, pollution and other adverse consequences.

Everyone agreed there was a very modest requirement for future housing (the recent housing survey indicated 10 social / affordable rental dwellings and 3 starter homes) but the question was where these could be built with a positive effect on the village.

Other discussion points included the need for a small village shop, the school and opportunities for local education and public rights of way to the countryside.

This is very much a process driven by the people of Cassington so we will be consulting with the village on all the matters discussed and others that are raised. In the meantime, if anyone has views or great ideas relating to the future of our village then now is the time to come forward.

Neil and Leani saw no reason why the Neighbourhood Plan could not be completed quickly but the Parish Council has to raise the funds to pay for their services. We look forward to the next meeting.

August

Cassington Neighbourhood Plan Moves Forward.

As readers of CAWN will be aware large-scale development is going on in West Oxfordshire. Our village is not isolated from the national drive to build houses, both in terms of proposals to build within the village and the indirect impacts of what is going on elsewhere, including increased traffic, pollution, loss of amenities as well as of biodiversity.

To ensure that the village has an opportunity to have a say in its future a team of villagers, together with the Parish Council and consultants Oneill Homer have been working on a Neighbourhood Plan. The end product is a document that sets out planning policies for Cassington village and its immediate surroundings, that are then used to help decide whether to approve planning applications within the village.

This process is now nearing its conclusion with the completion of a Green Infrastructure Plan, a Neighbourhood Plan Policies document and an analysis of villager's views on what we want for the village. On the 26th June we presented the Green Infrastructure Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan at the Village Hall. About 30 members of the village attended but do not worry if you have missed this event as the Green Infrastructure Plan presentation and a questionnaire about villager's views are available on the Parish Council website (see <https://cassington-pc.gov.uk/>).

The next stages in this process will be completion of the documentation and the process of acceptance of the Neighbourhood Plan by the Parish Council. The plan is then submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council for approval and adoption, pending any revisions requested.

The work does not stop there. The Green Infrastructure Plan is a consultation document for the Neighbourhood Plan but contains an array of information and recommendations on the network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features that make our village what it is. Whilst this is an aspirational document and not everything in it may be attainable, Green Infrastructure Plans have been used to support funding bids and to help people make important improvements to their local environment. So, over coming months groups within the village will be looking at how to implement some of the measures outlined in the Green Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Plans. Please look out for opportunities to join your fellow villagers in improving where and how we live, for the benefit of all.

It just remains for me to thank the members of the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan Committee (Jonty Ashworth; Piers Beeton; Ian Finlay; Barbara King; Anne Luttmann-Johnson) Oneill Homer, the Parish Council and for special contributions from Stewart Thompson, Matt Britton and Richard Constance.

What fun it has been!

Alex Rogers

September

HAVE YOUR SAY

Over the last few months a group of villagers have been working on a neighbourhood plan, which sets out how the village sees its future development. This document could be vital, if we do not want to see overdevelopment of the village along the lines we are currently witnessing in places like Long Hanbrough, Woodstock and Eynsham.

The group drew up a questionnaire, which many of you, filled out. However, in order to be a representative sample we need more completed questionnaires. You will find it as a tear off on the back page of this edition of CAWN. If you have not already completed it please can you do so and either post it through the letterbox of one of the committee – see details below – or bring it to the Cassington Picnic on Saturday 4th September.

In each household any teenage or adult member can complete a questionnaire, so if only one of your household completed it last time then please ask any other members of your household to fill one in. You are welcome to photocopy the questionnaire if you need more than one copy, or it can be downloaded from the village website.

Committee Members collecting questionnaires: Ian Finlay – 52 Eynsham Road Barbara King – 9 St Peter's Close Anne Luttmann-Johnson – 3 Foxwell Court Alex Rogers – 8 Orchard Close

Your Village needs you!

December

Regulation 14 Notice: Cassington Village Neighbourhood Plan

Notice is hereby given that the Cassington Village Neighbourhood Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan, Design Code and Analysis of the Village Survey relating to the first two documents is published on the Cassington Parish Council Website at: <https://cassington-pc.gov.uk/> under the link Parish Council / Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory document which lays out guidance and suggested management of future development in Cassington Village. The Green Infrastructure Plan details the history of Cassington Village, the green infrastructure in and around the village as well as a variety of issues of importance to the residents, landowners and others with an interest in Cassington. The Green Infrastructure Plan is intended to inform the Neighbourhood Plan but also covers issues not covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and planning in general. The Village Survey was aimed to garner views from the residents of Cassington on matters related to how they would like to see the village develop in the future. The Design Code appraises the main village settlement, and its content has informed the design policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

We request that anyone who lives, works or carries on business in the neighbourhood area of Cassington Parish should read the Neighbourhood Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan, Analysis of the Village Survey and the Design Code and, should they wish, respond to the plan and associated documents by email to: cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk or in writing to Ms T Cameron, 25 Lilac Way, Carterton OX18 1JH by the 18th of February.

The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Committee would appreciate comments of support, additional suggestions or criticisms of the plans in order to include as wide a body of opinion on the plans as possible. The documents can be provided in hard copy for people without access to the internet. Requests for hard copies should be sent to the Clerk of the Parish Council.

The documents related to this notice are: Neighbourhood Plan: Green Infrastructure Plan: Questionnaire and Analysis of the Village Survey: Design Code:

Kind Regards Parish Council & Cassington Neighbourhood Plan Committee

January 2022

Regulation 14 Notice: Cassington Village Neighbourhood Plan

Notice is hereby given that the Cassington Village Neighbourhood Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan, Design Code and Analysis of the Village Survey relating to the first two documents are due to be published on the Cassington Parish Council Website at: <https://cassington-pc.gov.uk/> under the link Parish Council / Neighbourhood Plan on 10th January 2022

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The documents related to this notice are: Neighbourhood Plan: Green Infrastructure Plan: Questionnaire and Analysis of the Village Survey: Design Code:

Kind Regards Parish Council & Cassington Neighbourhood Plan Committee

4.2 Appendix B Cassington Community Consultation Questionnaire

This questionnaire is being undertaken to provide input into the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan and Green Infrastructure Report. All data will be used only for the purposes of this consultation and raw data will be destroyed following this use. By filling out this questionnaire you consent to its use for the purposes above.

1. Are you a resident of Cassington village? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
2. If you are a resident of Cassington village how long have you lived here?
3. How old are you?
4. How many people live in your household (Adults Children)?
5. What are the most important elements of Cassington's Green infrastructure (Score 1 – 5 where 5 is very important and 1 is not important; all categories can be given any score)
 - Flood protection.....
 - Reducing impacts from traffic.....
 - Maintaining the character of the village (e.g. Conservation area)...
 - Places to walk and enjoy the outdoors.....
 - Protection of biodiversity.....
 - Mitigation of climate change.....
6. What are the most important amenities for Cassington (Score 1 – 5 where 5 is very important and 1 is not important)
 - The village school.....
 - The church.....
 - The Village Hall.....
 - Local green spaces (village greens, pathways, sports field, allotment).....
 - The allotment.....
 - The Sports Pavillion and Sports Field.....
 - The MUGA pitch and outdoor exercise machines.....
 - The children's playground and Zip Wire.....
 - The public houses (The Red Lion and The Chequers).....
 - The forest school.....
 - Worton Farm Café and other facilities.....
7. What amenities, if any, are missing from Cassington?
8. Do you regard the roads and footways in Cassington as safe Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

Comment:

9. Is the provision of sustainable transport options in Cassington Village adequate (e.g. buses, pedestrian routes, cycle paths)?

Comment:

10. What is an acceptable level of housing development in Cassington in your view in the next 10 years (pick one category)?

0 houses.....

5 houses.....

10 houses.....

20 houses.....

50 houses.....

More than 50 houses.....

11. What types of houses are required? (Score 1 – 5 where 5 has a high need and 1 is not important)

Rental accommodation.....

Affordable small homes / flats (1-2 bedrooms; up to £250,000).....

Affordable family homes (up to 3 bedroom; up to £350,000).....

Mid-range homes (up to 4 bedrooms; £400,000+).....

High-value properties (£750,000+).....

12. What sort of land is suitable for building on? (Score 1 – 5 where 5 is very suitable and 1 is not suitable)

Brown-field sites.....

Infill building.....

Building on Local Green Spaces (e.g. allotments; greens; sports field)..

Building on surrounding land (largely agricultural land).....

Do you have any further comments or ideas for the Green Infrastructure Plan or the Neighbourhood Plan?

4.3 Appendix C Cassington Neighbourhood Plan Community Consultation Report

Introduction

Cassington is a small village of about 300 households located to the north west of Oxford in an area to the north of the Thames. Given the pressures of development on the districts surrounding Oxford and the very limited infrastructure, especially related to transport and drainage, it was felt that the village residents should give their views on what constitutes sustainable planning for the future of Cassington including for green infrastructure. As a result, the production of the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan was requested by the Cassington Parish Council in December 2020. The Neighbourhood Plan and Green Infrastructure Plan were prepared by a Neighbourhood Planning Committee comprising residents of Cassington, including a representative from the Parish Council. During the preparation of the Neighbourhood and Green Infrastructure plans village residents were kept informed of progress and consulted on their thoughts on what policies and wider considerations were appropriate for Cassington. This document comprises details of consultations undertaken during the preparation of the Green Infrastructure Plan and Neighbourhood Plan as well as the results of a questionnaire prepared to obtain the views on future development of the village from the residents of Cassington.

Community Consultation: Methods & Approaches

During the preparation of the Neighbourhood and Green Infrastructure plans village residents were kept informed of progress and consulted on their thoughts on what policies and wider considerations were appropriate for Cassington. The Neighbourhood Planning Committee also verbally reported to the Parish Council on progress. O'Neill Homer, the consultants contracted to assist with development of the Neighbourhood plan also were in regular touch with the Parish Council. The Green Infrastructure Plan and Neighbourhood Plan were presented to the public, mainly villagers, on the 26th June, 2021 at the Cassington Village Hall. This meeting was aimed at informing the village on the contents of the Green Infrastructure Plan and Neighbourhood Plan which was being put together by O'Neill Homer for the Parish Council. It included a presentation on the Green Infrastructure Plan and Neighbourhood Plan and a display of the slides in the presentation for viewing by the public. A questionnaire on the Green Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Plans was also put together to obtain feedback for further input to both the Green Infrastructure and Neighbourhood plans. Any verbal feedback from the meeting was also noted for inclusion. For those not able to attend the meeting, the presentation, the Green Infrastructure Plan and the Questionnaire were all placed on the Parish Council website. The slides for the presentation were also displayed in the Sports Pavillion during the late summer Cassington Picnic for the village on the 4th September, 2021 and further questionnaires distributed for attending residents. Finally, the questionnaire was also circulated in the September 2021 issue of the Cassington and Worton News (CAWN), the village magazine which is circulated by post to most residents of the village.

The questionnaire was designed to collect information on a range issues related to the Green Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Plans. It is attached as Appendix 1 and available at: <https://cassington-pc.gov.uk/documents/neighbourhood-plan-questionnaire/>. Sixty residents of Cassington returned the questionnaires and responses were analysed and presented graphically in the Analysis of Village Questionnaires attached as Appendix 2 and available at: <https://cassington-pc.gov.uk/documents/neighbourhood-plan-questionnaire-analysis/>.

Results

A total of 60 questionnaires were received, all participants were residents. Given the size of the village (about 300 homes) and assuming ~ 2 adults per household (consistent with the data from the survey) this would indicate that about 10% of the adult population of the village has responded.

As can be seen the age of the most common class of respondents was between 51 and 70 years of age (Figure 1). This suggests that younger residents / house owners in the village were not well represented in the survey. However, it may also reflect the relative distribution of housing in the village in that houses are generally family homes at the more expensive end of the market leading to a more mature cohort of house owners.

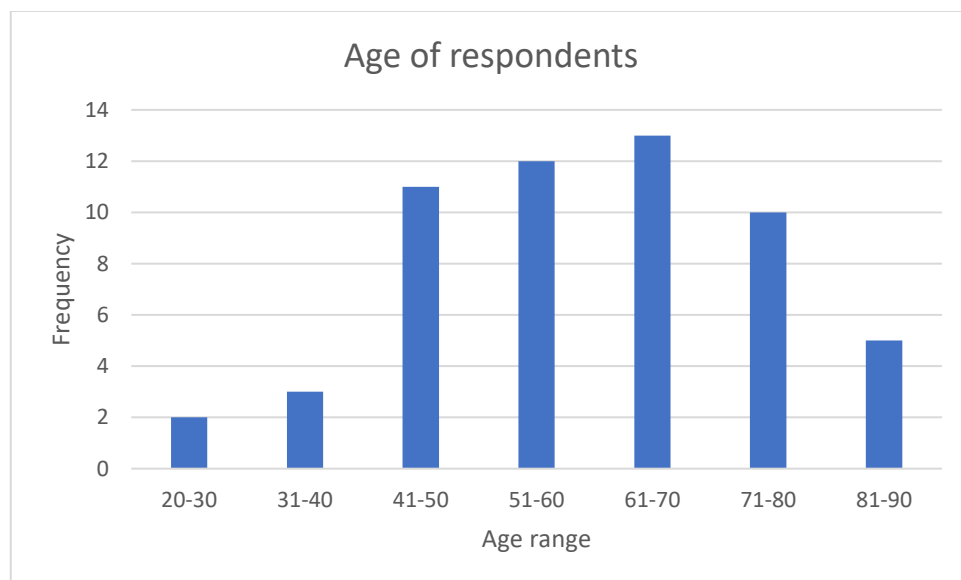


Figure 1. Age of respondents

The distribution of residence time for Cassington villagers who took the survey suggests that there is a significant turn over of housing in the village with the largest size class of respondents having been present less than 10 years. The majority of residents have lived in Cassington longer than this with some residents having lived in the village for all of their lives, in some cases for more than 70 years (Figure 2). This reflects the fact that the village is a nice place to live, and people tend to stay for a long time once they have purchased a property here.

Number of adults per household varied from 1-5 with 2 being the highest proportion (Figure 3). Most of the households where just one person lived tended to be in the older age categories (late sixties or more than 70) reflecting a number of households in Cassington where single pensioners are living. Houses with multiple adults (3 or more) probably reflected households where young adults resided with parents or where an older person is living with their relatives.

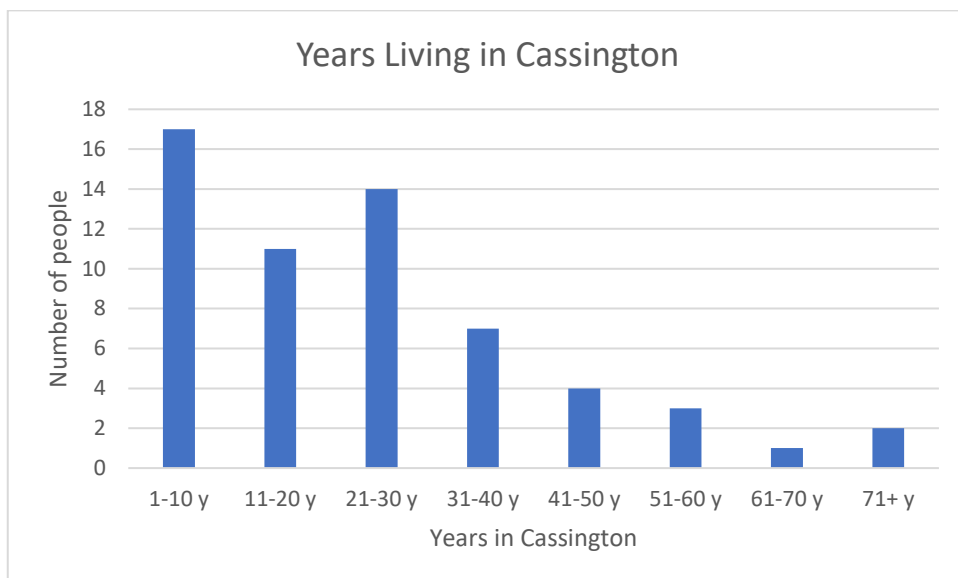


Figure 2. The number of years that residents who answered the questionnaire had lived in the village.

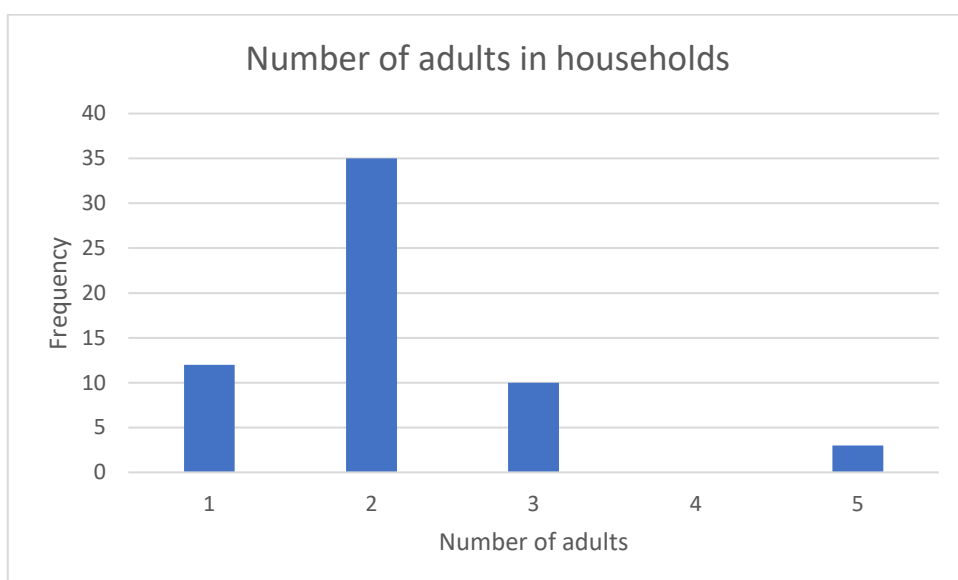


Figure 3. Number of adults in household.

Question 5 of the survey asked what the most important element of Cassington’s green infrastructure was to village residents. The areas of flood risk mitigation, traffic issues, maintaining the character of the village and maintaining its outdoor spaces were all viewed as important by the majority of respondents. Biodiversity and climate mitigation were viewed as less of a priority, although they still scored highly for the majority of village residents. This is relevant to the Cassington Green Infrastructure Plan (Rogers, 2021) as it indicates that the main issues concerning the village covered by the report are thought to be highly relevant. Several respondents specifically mentioned the need to keep ditches and other drainage infrastructure clear and operational.

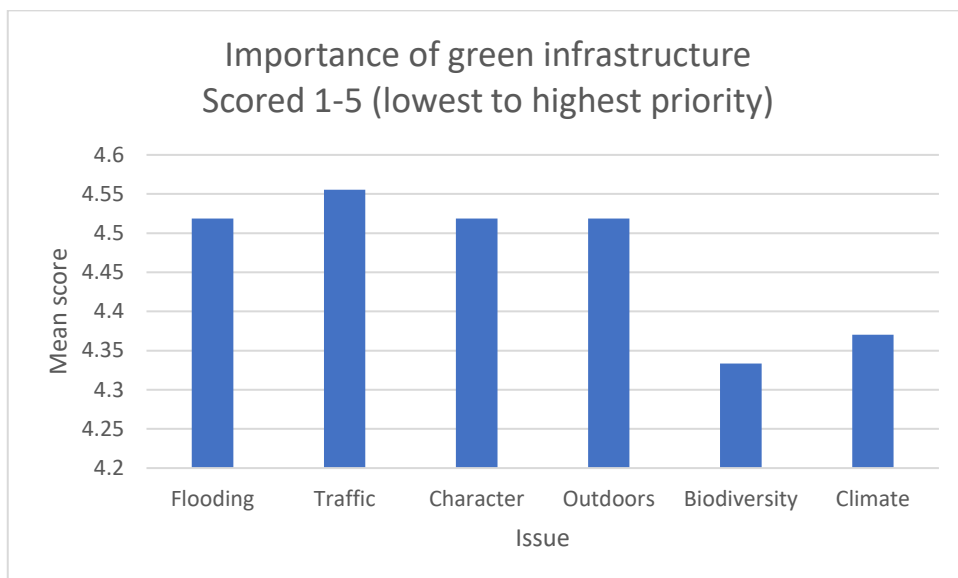


Figure 4 Importance of different green infrastructure elements to Cassington villagers. A Score of 1 meant the issue was of low priority, a score of 5 highest priority. Graph shows mean values across all residents.

Question 6 of the questionnaire asked about the relevance of village amenities to Cassington villagers and Question 7 as to whether any amenities were thought to be missing. Almost all the current village amenities were considered highly important to the respondents with the school, the village hall, the green spaces, allotment and sports pavilion and sports field being given the highest ratings. The MUGA pitch and the outdoor exercise machines in the sports field were given a lower importance probably reflecting use by a smaller proportion of people in the village. The forest school was also given a slightly lower priority probably because this is mainly used by people with children although the fact that lock down may have influenced this result should be borne in mind. Worton Café had the lowest score reflecting its location outside the village and limited accessibility for some by walking (e.g. people with low mobility).

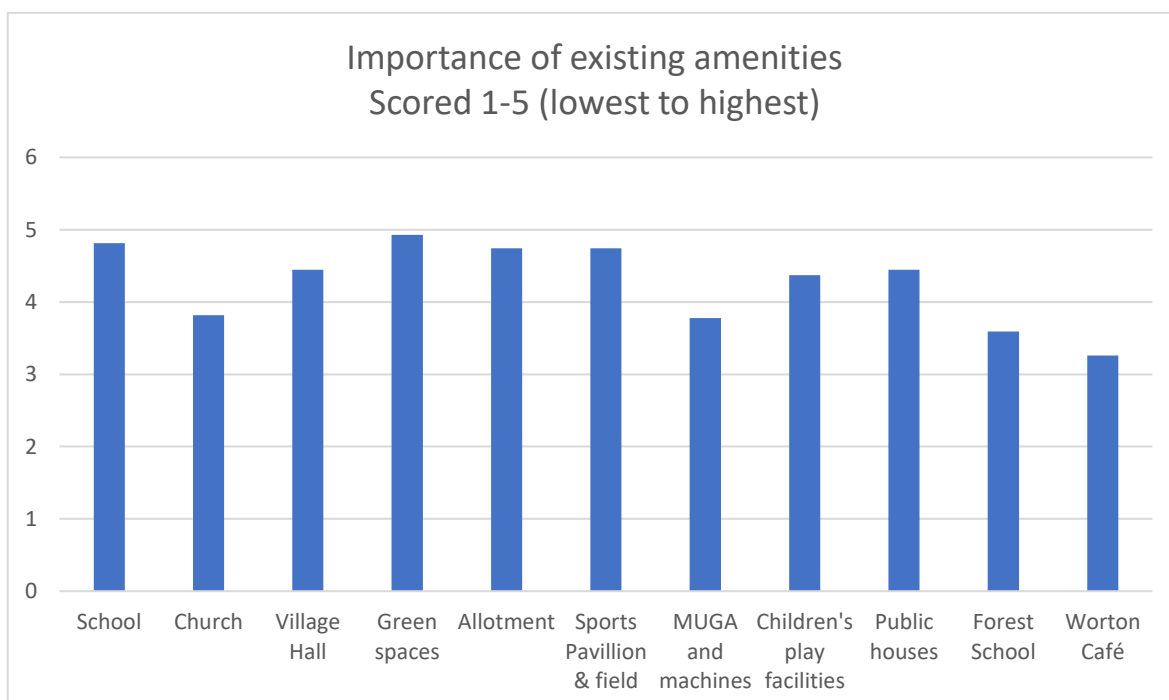


Figure 5. Importance of existing village amenities scored 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Mean score across all respondents.

Again, these results are reassuring as the Cassington Green Infrastructure Plan the village amenities are emphasised as being important and it is recommended that they are maintained in the future for the village.

The most important amenity considered as missing by residents of Cassington was the existence of a village shop (Figure 6). This too is mentioned in the Green Infrastructure Plan although both there and in the questionnaires the financial viability of such a business is questioned. In both the Green Infrastructure Plan and the questionnaire responses the possibility of running this with another business, such as one of the pubs is mentioned.

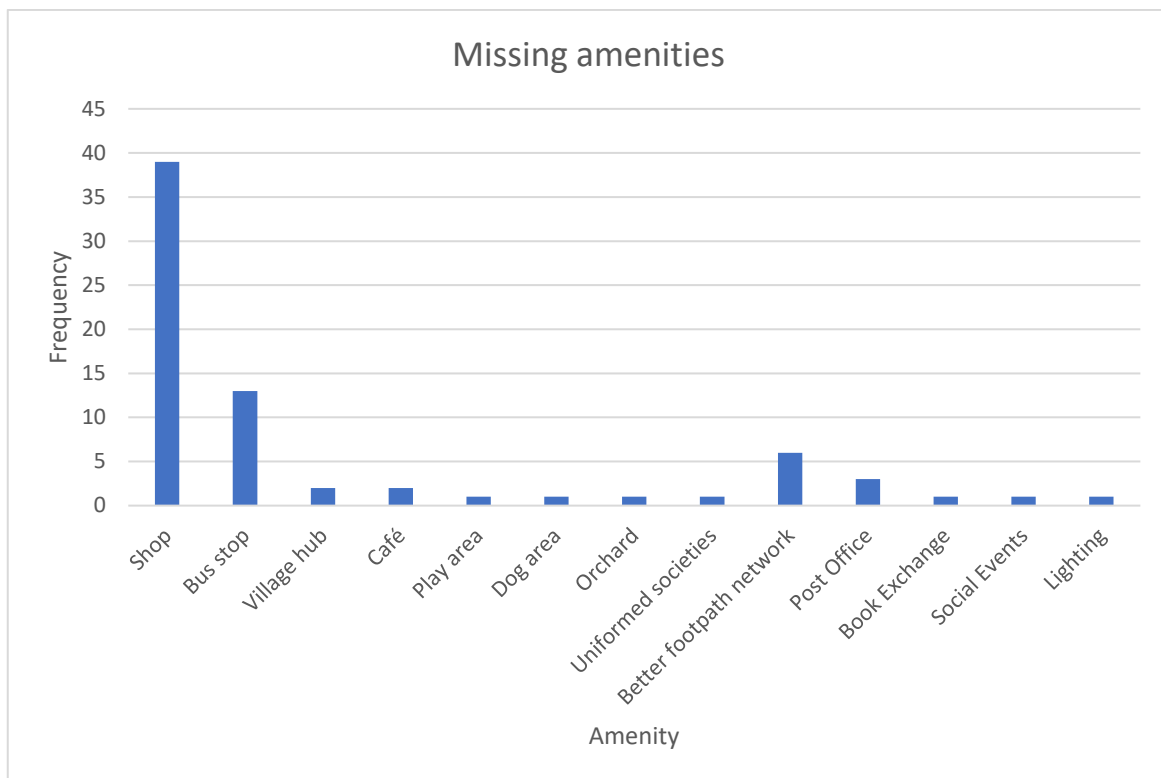


Figure 6. Amenities mentioned as missing by respondents. Frequency is the number of respondents that mentioned a particular missing amenity (some mentioned more than one).

The second significant area of infrastructure mentioned is the lack of a bus service which passes through the village itself. This is likely to be a particular problem for elderly residents who cannot drive as the only bus stop for Cassington lies outside the village on the A40. One responder mentioned the fact that they had moved an elderly parent closer to their home but located them to Eynsham because Cassington has such poor transport links. Other responders mentioned the lack of a bus service in the evenings and at weekends. Some of these concerns may be met with the development of a Park and Ride at Eynsham as part of the Salt Cross development and also a new bus stop located near to Horsemere Lane, which will be closed to vehicular traffic, all as part of the A40 upgrade. These plans are still at proposal stage.

Other amenities suggested included a small café for Cassington, a children’s play area or space, an area for dogs, a village orchard and a hub for people who work from home to meet. One resident noted the lack of uniformed societies in the village (e.g. cubs, brownies etc.) and there was also a mention of upgrading the network of footpaths. Some of these ideas could potentially be met through changed

use of existing amenities such as the village hall or the sports pavilion (e.g. cubs / brownies; village hub, café). However, they would need support by volunteers or as an extension to an existing business.

Questions 8 and 9 addressed further the question of traffic and transport in the village. It is notable that the views on traffic safety through the village were quite mixed with residents commenting particularly on the speed of traffic and in some cases the narrowness of the footways and road in places (Figure 7). It is notable that more than 40% of residents considered that the village roads were unsafe. Various recommendations were made from introducing traffic calming measures, to decreasing the speed limit through the village to 20mph and installing a pedestrian crossing between the Red Lion pub and the village green for use particularly by children. Improvements to the junction between Bell Lane and the Cassington – Yarnton Road was also mentioned.

The overwhelming view from residents was that Cassington suffered from a significant lack of sustainable transport options (Figure 7). The largest need identified was for improved connectivity to regular bus services as is discussed above (Figure 7). Second in terms of priority is improved cycle path links with several mentioning a cycle link to Long Hanborough and the railway station as being particularly useful but also links to Yarnton and through to Botley in Oxford. Some of these ideas are discussed in the Green Infrastructure Plan. One respondent mentioned the need for a rail line, presumably referring to the idea of a new light railway linking Witney, Eynsham, Yarnton and Oxford via Cassington. Improvement in provision and maintenance of footpaths is also mentioned. Two residents suggested installation of EV Charging Points in the Village Hall Car Park.

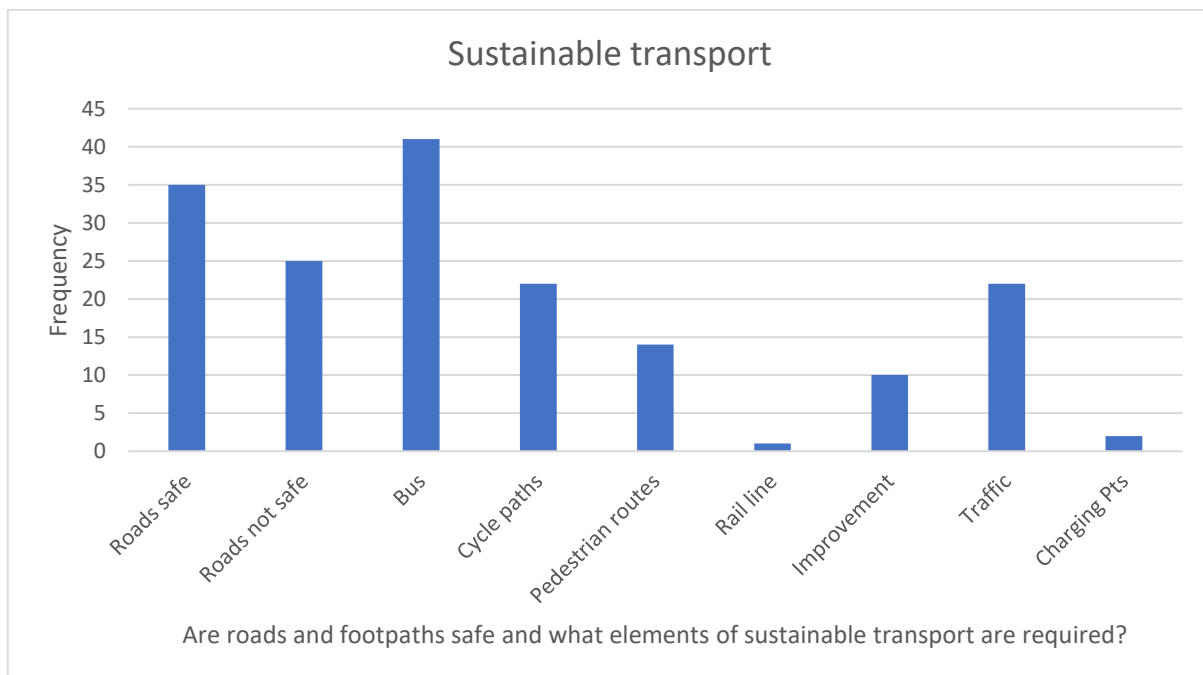


Figure 7. Views on whether the roads and footways in Cassington area safe or not and what the needs for sustainable transport are.

Questions 10, 11 and 12 address what residents thought was the need for housing and of what type in Cassington Village. Question 10 specifically asked what is a reasonable rate of housing increase in the village, per decade. In the Green Infrastructure Report a figure of 15 houses per decade is suggested based on the housing survey undertaken by the Parish Council in late 2020. This rate seems consistent with the views of the respondents where most suggested a rate between 10 and 20 houses per decade (Figure 8).

With respect to the type of housing required the most support was for 1-2 bedroom houses (up to £250,000 value) and for affordable family homes (up to 3 bedrooms, £350,000 value; Figure 9). This is highly consistent with the views identified in the Parish Council survey of housing needs in the village undertaken in late 2020. Support for rental and more expensive housing was markedly lower in this survey and least for the largest and most expensive types of property.

Where future housing should be sited was the subject of Question 12. Respondents expressed a preference for “brown field” or infill building sites in the village with least support for building on Local Green Space such as the allotments, village greens and sports field (Figure 10). There was a low level of support for building on surrounding land (largely agricultural land; Figure 10). This is consistent with national and local policies on building in green belt areas and consistent with the Green Infrastructure Plan.

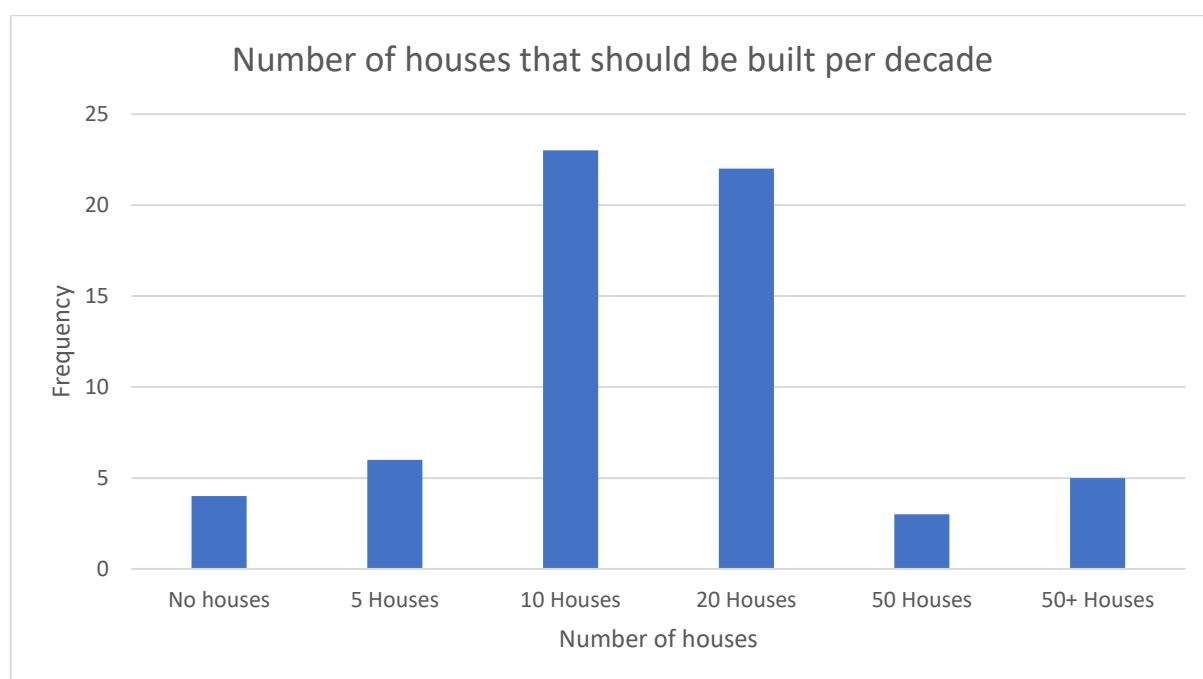


Figure 8. Respondent’s view on how many houses should be built in Cassington per decade.

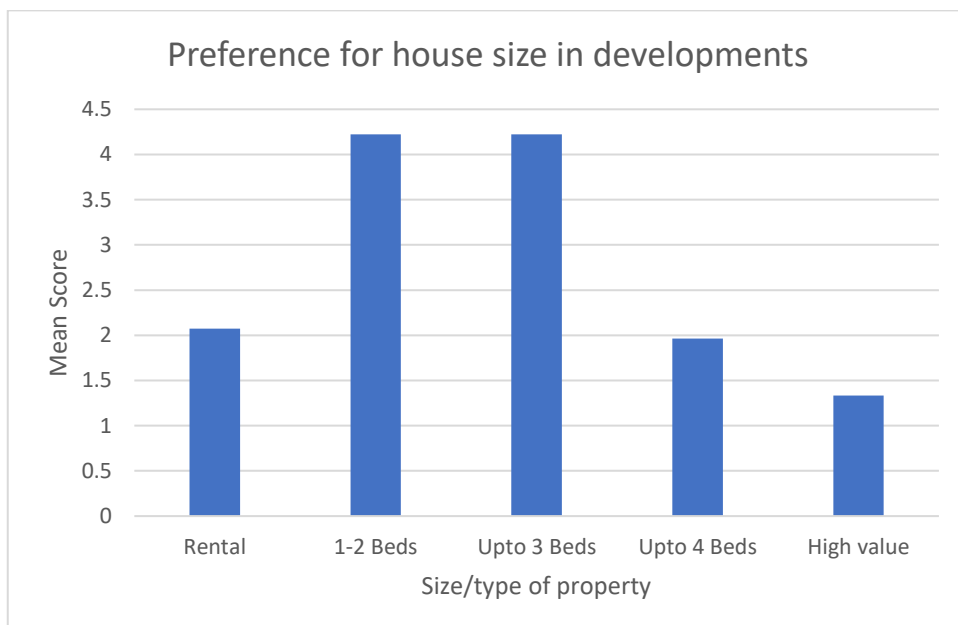


Figure 9. Respondent’s view on what type of housing is required for the village. Average scores are provided with 1 representing a low priority and 5 the highest priority.

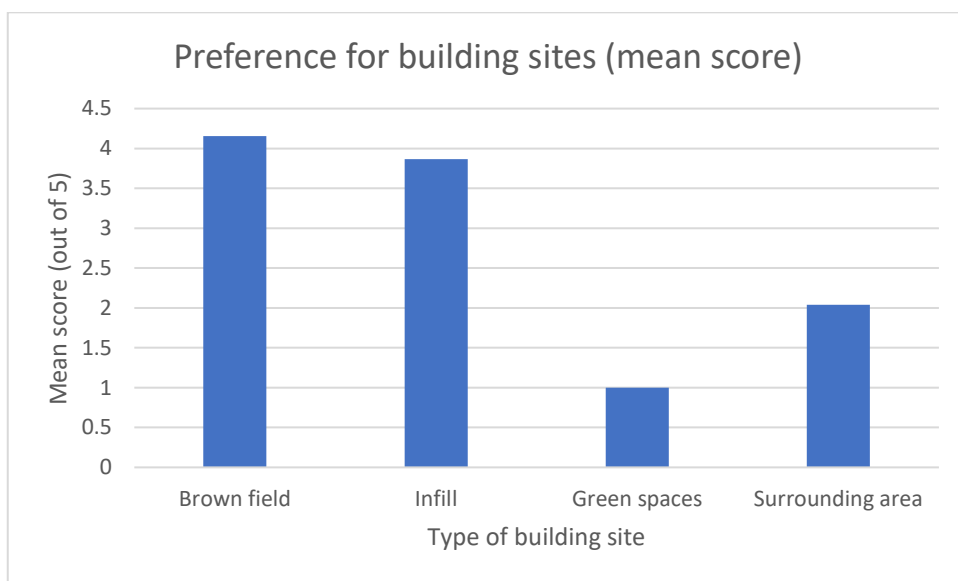


Figure 10. Preferences for types of land to be developed. A score of 1 is lowest preference, a score of 5 is the highest. Figures are means across all respondents.

4.4 Appendix D List of Regulation 14 Consultees

WODC Planning

Cllr Goodwin WODC

Cllr Rylett WODC

Cllr Levy WODC

Robert Courts MP

Historic England

Natural England

Environment Agency

Network Rail

Thames Water

OCC Planning

Blenheim Estates

Worton Farm

Eynsham PC

Woodstock PC

Kidlington PC

Bladon PC

Yarnton PC

Owners of The Bell (proposed listed property)

