

Vision Methodology Evidence Paper [EVM]

Part 1: Introduction

1. In drafting a Neighbourhood Plan, a key principle is that the conclusions drawn from evidence papers and detailed in policy papers should have solid foundations. It should be demonstrable that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the views of the residents of the parish and that they have been properly and adequately consulted throughout the drafting process.
2. This evidence paper on vision methodology describes that consultation process in brief.
3. The conclusion which should be drawn from it is that those drafting the Neighbourhood Plan have very carefully gathered the views of residents and reflected those in the evidence papers and the policy papers derived.

Part 2: Facts

4. Work on the Neighbourhood Plan began in 2015/16, with the engagement of external consultants Shaping Communities Ltd, who produced a 'Consultation and Engagement Strategy Report' for the steering group. This report set out guiding principles for the interaction with residents and was used in the early part of the project.
5. A questionnaire, highlighted by accompanying publicity in the local press, was issued to residents in March 2017. This garnered a good response rate and was used as the basis for the topics chosen in later consultation events.
6. To gain a range of views which might not otherwise have been captured, meetings were held in May 2017 with the youth group based at local venue 'The Ark', and in August 2017 with a focus group of Year 6 pupils from Stoke Mandeville Combined School.
7. The first more formal consultation event was held on Sunday 19th November 2017 at the Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville Village. On show were detailed displays of the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan, explaining why it was being developed, the various stages in the process, and various maps detailing where future developments were planned to be located within the Parish boundaries.

There were seven categories of key themes on display: Business and Employment, Community Facilities, Infrastructure, Conservation and Heritage, Transport, Environment and Green Spaces, and Housing. The displays on these themes detailed what the Steering Group had learned from feedback in previous consultation events and from the questionnaire survey conducted with all the residents of the parish earlier that year, plus the objectives considered appropriate in the light of what had been learned from the residents.

Each of the many attendees was invited to make comments on what they had seen on the displays and discussed with the various members of the Steering Group who were on hand to answer any questions.

8. The next events were a series of public exhibitions held over the weekend of 22nd and 23rd September 2018 in the Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville Village, Booker Park School in Stoke Leys, the Community Centre in Hawkslade, and on the green space behind Charles Close.

The displays were of a similar nature to those shown previously and those attending were again invited to make and leave comments on what they had seen.

9. The final public consultation event was held on 16th February 2019 in the Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville Village and Booker Park School, Stoke Leys. Again, there were a series of displays to provoke feedback from those attending, when the vision for Stoke Mandeville in the Neighbourhood Plan was displayed and discussed.

As part of this event, every resident in Stoke Mandeville was asked to complete a short survey. The results of this survey were collated and summarised by a third party, People and Places Insight Ltd, and published on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's website. 190 fully completed surveys were received.

10. This data is quoted extensively in the evidence papers, whether in percentage terms showing those who agreed with a particular proposition, or by directly quoting the comments made.
11. Several topics elicited strong responses, with a clear and consistent view expressed by residents. These have been reflected in the approaches set out in our policy papers.
12. Residents contact the parish council on a variety of topics impacting their daily lives. Equally, councillors are sensitive to changes taking place in the parish and surrounding areas. Not all these are relevant to the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan, but those drafting it are conscious of those concerns and have sought to include them.
13. In late 2019, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group drew together the feedback received from residents (particularly from the meetings and questionnaire of that year), the wider aims of other branches of local government (as expressed in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and the creation of Aylesbury Garden Town), and its own ambitions for the parish into a single document. That document was itself summarised into a vision statement as follows:

Stoke Mandeville Garden Parish will be a healthy, sociable community set in a beautiful green natural environment in which people are proud to say they live, work and play.

The Neighbourhood Plan reflects and promotes that vision.

Part 3: Analysis and Conclusions

13. The basis of the Neighbourhood Plan is a vision for the future of the parish grounded firmly in the views and concerns of residents, collected over 4 years.

The process described above shows a clear and demonstrable link between residents' views and the Neighbourhood Plan. Every effort has been made to fully capture resident's views and use them as the basis for its subsequent formulation.