

Community Consultation - Site Preference Results

In March 2020, Neighbourhood Plan community consultation took place in Stow and the Swells. It included three drop-in days at Swells Village hall, St Edward's Hall and Stow Social Club.

The purpose of the drop-in days was to:

- Engage the community in understanding the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Draw to the attention of the community the 10 sites in Stow and 1 in the Swells that might be used for development
- Record the community's views, priorities and preferences in relation to the possible development sites

At the drop-in days the community were able to complete a form to indicate their preference as to which sites might be considered for development. Information was also available about why development is needed in Stow. For each site, members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) together with community representatives had completed a site assessment form, provided by CDC. The site assessment forms were displayed with plans of each site and an overall plan of sites. **All of this information can be viewed on the web site of Stow Town council.**

www.stowonthewold-tc.gov.uk

The results of the household questionnaire told us that the community wish us to add the following local criteria to those provided nationally - views of local residents (253 household votes/78%), protection of listed buildings (211 household votes/65%), preservation of key views (202 household votes/62%).

Unfortunately, only one hundred and twenty-five site preference forms were completed by Stow residents, a low response rate of 8% of the Stow adult population. Although this information will be used by the NPSG, the low response rate will have to be taken into account when evaluating the sites. In other words we cannot regard the result as strong guidance.

The ranking of sites by Stow residents was as follows:-

- Site 6 – Land North of Tesco and behind McCarthy and Stone (75 votes/60%)
- Site 7 – Land North of Tesco behind Edwardstow Court (74 votes/59%)
- Site 1 – Land to rear of Majestic Wines (73 votes/58%)
- Site 4 – Remainder of Tall Trees site (70.5 votes/56%)
- Site 11 – Land North of Stow and West of Fosseyway (49 votes/39%)
- Site 8 – Adjacent to Stow Vets, Mangersbury Road (46.5 votes/37%)
- Site 2 – Site at Spring Gardens allotments (44.5 votes/36%)
- Site 9 – Land South of Griffin Close (43 votes/34%)
- Site 5 – Shoppers car park at Tesco (37 votes/30%)
- Site 10 – Land E of Griffin Close and north of Oddington Road (34 votes/27%)
- Site 3 – Car Park, Mangersbury Road (27 votes/22%)

Percentages relate to the number of residents who selected each site.

The NPSG must use a robust, clear and transparent process to evaluate the possible sites for development. Stage one of that process was the site assessment forms. Stage two is the results of the March 2020 community consultation. The NPSG will now consider all information provided by the community. That will help us to consider options for development to meet the needs of Stow and the Swells through to 2031. The NPSG is now working towards producing a new draft Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the guidance from the community. This will be the subject of further community consultation.

If you have any questions about the Neighbourhood Plan please contact Stow Town Council on info@stowonthewold-tc.gov.uk or telephone 01451 832585.

Stow on the Wold and Swells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group