



Residents' questionnaire survey

Comment listings

DJN Planning Limited

November 2016

For Little Birch and Aconbury NDP Steering Group

Introduction

This document lists all the comments made by respondents to the Little Birch and Aconbury residents' questionnaire survey, which was undertaken to inform work on the Neighbourhood Plan in September/October 2016.

The questionnaire included a number of open questions inviting free-write comments on aspects of development and the environment. These have been analysed and are summarised in the Results Report. The free-write comments are set out individually here question by question. Comments are repeated verbatim and place names are as given.

Completed questionnaires have been numbered to aid analysis, and these numbers are given here. Questionnaires remain anonymous.

Two sets of typed responses were made available to the consultant which had evidently become detached from their 'parent' questionnaires during the initial processing. These responses are included here at the end of the relevant free-write question. They have been numbered as A and B to preserve the sequential numbering sequence. They have been included in the numerical assessment of comments made set out in the Results Report.

This report has been independently prepared for the Little Birch and Aconbury NDP Steering Group by Dr. D.J. Nicholson.

November 2016

Q5: Are there any specific locations you think are suitable for new homes in Little Birch or Aconbury? If so, where, and why?

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
5	No.
7	Barrack Hill.
10	Q4 is loaded, and appears to direct respondents to a particular answer. <u>Unacceptable.</u>
12	Any suitable location north of the church (see comments at end).
14	Infill in Little Birch village itself.
17	Anywhere there is reasonable access by car and delivery vehicles.
19	N/A.
20	Along Mense Lane past Daneswood could be infilled. Bottom of Pendant Pitch on left.
21	Bordering Barrack Hill.
23	Near main dwellings, Village Hall area etc.
25	Properties adjacent to unadopted lanes therefore reducing immediate access to public roads as these are already oversubscribed due to problems crossing the river.
27	No.
28	Small paddocks around village.
30	No.
32	Keeping animals in small paddocks is becoming a challenge for farmers. They are suitable locations for any development.
33	Aconbury should be very limited for new housing. Adding to 'clusters' distorts the space of wayside dwellings. I have a list of areas in Little Birch on p. 11.
34	Within the more dense concentrations/clusters of existing housing if necessary – in order to preserve the rural feel of the settlement.
37	Within the more densely built up areas.
40	None preferably.
42	No opinion.
43	Along A49 (west of).
44	West of the A49 – transport, open land, not much disruption to existing houses.
49	I don't think either of these two parishes would cope with more development in this area.
50	Little Birch.
51	Around the Little Birch church area – good access already in place.
53	Being totally selfish, I would like to see very little extra houses being built in the two villages. Looking on the map there is a small triangle of land on the west side of the A49. You could easily build 18 houses there which would not interfere.
58	No, if any houses should be built, they should be built in a slightly more built areas such as Kingsthorpe.
59	Crows Nest Lane, New Road, top of School Lane to top of Crows Nest Lane.
60	Crows Nest Lane would be suitable to build a small number of houses without altering the appearance of the area very much.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
62	Crows Nest Lane, this would be able to develop a small number of new homes as either individual sites or a small group together without compromising the area.
65	No.
67	Lower section of Well Orchard, adjacent to New Road. Jones' orchard.
69	Barrack Hill.
70	Local pub.
72	Very few due to the land in the village. There is a plot at the bottom of Barrack Hill but not much else. There is also the problem of drainage and the outflow from septic tanks.
75	Barrack Hill – already some development going on.
82	Top of School Lane to top of Crows Nest Lane. Along New Road, along the lane from New Road towards the church, along the lower end of Mesne Lane. Areas not overlooked by other houses.
87	A lot of Little Birch dwellings are in clusters, I think these are areas for future development.
88	There are numerous areas of land attached to properties within the village boundary that are not used for any purpose.
91	No, I do not believe Little Birch and Aconbury are suitable parishes for development and the consequential changes to these communities and scattered settlements.
93	No opinion.
95	Around the main settlement of the village rather than on the fringes.
100	In cluster around Pendant Pitch and Castle Nibole in cluster round church. These would not encroach on open space.
101	Infill where single plots exist.
104	Areas that already are highly populated, leave the rural areas as they are. Little Birch is prided on its beautiful countryside, it would be a shame to ruin this with new builds that aren't in keeping with the property.
109	In the hamlet of Aconbury.
110	No.
113	No opinion.
114	No opinion.
117	Derelict or semi-derelict properties could be converted into viable new homes.
118	The logical option is to build within a radius of the pub and the village hall (however, this would require people to be willing to sell land or convert agricultural land). The existing road and transport network is best in this vicinity.
121	Unused paddocks next to existing homes.
122	There are many infill areas – people should be helped and encouraged to build in their gardens or on their land if they wish to do so.
123	A number of houses have unused fields/paddocks that could accommodate housing.
124	Any location within easy walking distance of the main Kings Thorn - Hereford bus route.
125	NW of Athelstans Wood/as extension of LD (LD has good facilities already developed). West of A49 – good transport links to Hereford/Ross.

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
127	Added to existing clusters.
128	To add to clusters and single dwellings if appropriate ground.
129	In clusters and randomly. No streets. Attempt to preserve wilder lands.
131	Around Little Birch – the Castle pub.
132	Add to clusters and keep some space for privacy.
136	None.
142	No opinion.
143	By existing houses.
144	Where there is sufficient water supply and drainage so that houses further up the line are not depleted. Where there is no risk of flooding etc.
145	No opinion. Don't know Little Birch enough.
149	Around Little Birch.
152	Make a proper village with several houses in one place, shop, church, pub, school.
154	No.
161	No opinion.
165	Area surrounding local pub.
166	No.
167	Houses should be in areas that have more built up areas so you maintain the countryside.
168	Between A49 and Little Birch – southern edge.
171	Infill.
172	None.
178	From Little Birch Road to Sunnybank Cottage. Left side of road from Barrack Hill – infill potential leaving right hand side to open countryside views.
181	Little Birch Road, Pendant Pitch.
183	Small fields with little practicality ie too small for livestock or arable farming. As they have no practical use providing they don't hinder any neighbouring properties. They also will not fit a housing estate.
185	No.
190	No opinion.
A	I cannot think of any actual areas but needless to say apart from the land cost there is also the building cost. It is of course far more cost effective to build on level land rather than sloping especially if the idea is to encourage new families to the area. Plus of course it is essential that utilities are accessible.

Q6: Are there any specific locations where houses should not be built? If so, where, and why?

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
4	Not where it will infringe on peoples views.
5	Yes. Land with protected status eg areas of special interest including archaeology and wildlife.
10	Houses should only be built as infill. No further encroachment into good farming land should be allowed.
11	Anywhere, the noise bounces of the hills (a problem here). Most people live here for the peace and quiet!
12	Building south of the church in Little Birch should only be in exceptional circumstances (lack of access).
14	On greenfield sites outside the existing village.
17	Where there is <u>no</u> Council built vehicular access.
18	There should be no development in or on existing farmland or open countryside.
19	Open farmland.
21	Areas with access issues.
23	Not on green belt or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
25	On areas of land which subsequently causes drainage problems for others. New build/conversion must include ample off-road parking as local roads too narrow for long-term on-road parking – ie The Thorn adjacent to the junction.
26	Where roads are inadequate for the traffic. This needs to be calculated from road surface, road width and line hilliness, and car ownership. Green fields.
27	No.
32	No development around either of the two churches. No houses close to any woodland. Green lanes should be protected.
34	The gaps between clusters should not be filled and the village not extended. No more building along Barrack Hill going east beyond the village hall where 3 new applications already have consent (see also Q20).
35	Woodland specifically Aconbury and Athelstan Woods.
37	No more building along Barrack Hill – east beyond village hall as 3 applications have already been granted. Existing views and the rural nature of the area should be preserved. Drainage and pollution of the Wriggle Brook should be considered.
40	Anywhere in the village.
42	No opinion.
43	The ancient woodland should be preserved and building right up to the edge of the woods should not be allowed.
44	In or around woodlands, should be protected.
45	Houses should not be built around Aconbury Church or in the woodland.
49	Callow, Little Birch and Aconbury. The A49 is far too fast and busy as it is. Anymore traffic would make the situation worse.
53	In gardens of existing dwellings.
58	No houses should be built in rural areas and in the countryside such as Little Birch. Areas such as Little Birch are not places for more houses to be built, it

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
	ruins the countryside and the reasons why people already living there choose to live in the countryside (Little Birch) in the first place.
63	Open fields with no existing properties to be in keeping with the Parish.
64	Open fields with no existing properties to be in keeping with the Parish.
65	No
66	Aconbury woods.
68	Higgins Well.
73	They should <u>not</u> be built where services such as sewage cannot cope.
75	More obvious on greenfield areas.
82	In the gardens of existing houses as has been done in Much Birch. Houses are too close together, over looked with no areas for children to play, discourages families buying in the area.
88	I think houses in the village should be kept in keeping with the surrounding properties i.e. stone or timber clad, not brown brick with white uPVC windows.
91	See answer to Q5.
93	Not in open fields.
95	Open fields.
100	In big fields between clusters, would spoil character of neighbourhood.
101	Outside current house developments, ie no ribbon development next to last house on roads out of the village – only development inside village.
104	Personally I would not like to see houses being built near to the church and other relatively rural areas, we enjoy being surrounded by farmland and having a quiet road to our property and wouldn't want this to change.
109	Avoid Barrack Hill so as not to increase traffic in that area.
110	Try and keep the wild daffodils. They grow in two different fields in Little Birch.
112	Fields and surrounding countryside.
113	Open countryside.
114	Open countryside and farmland.
115	Open fields and countryside on the village boundaries.
117	Areas without suitable roads, or with steep slopes should be kept free of further development i.e. avoid the type of situation in Lower Wrigglesbrook where cars have to be parked elsewhere.
118	Wherever the road network is poor (eg where visibility is reduced). Houses being built should not interfere with the views of rural landscape.
121	No building in wooded areas.
123	Important to preserve woodland so not in any wood setting.
125	Building on land adjacent to ancient woodland or on fields that form part of a significant view.
129	Anywhere that obstructs view or damages wildlife.
131	Along the actual hill of Barrack Hill – lots of occupied plots. Beyond Lower House – open farm land.
136	Near our house.
142	Not in woodland areas – Aconbury woods, Athelstans, Netherwood, Wallbrook.
143	Not in woodland areas.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
144	Woodland, orchards, wildlife habitats, prime agricultural land, sites of historic interest, parish field, meadows (ie community areas).
145	No opinion.
149	Along Barrack Hill, I feel there are many houses ion this area.
151	Yes: land with protected status, eg areas of special archaeological or wildlife interest and significance.
152	Green field sites.
154	Green belt area Little Birch. The wildlife and bird population would suffer.
157	Anywhere, where the new build is going to obstruct the views from existing homes.
160	Woodland – Aconbury and Athelstan.
161	New homes should have as little effect on environmental areas as possible.
162	In large fields belonging farmers.
166	Near farmland and wooded areas.
167	Places like Little Birch who are in the countryside, so we can keep the fields, walking areas, woods and wildlife.
171	Agricultural land, Castle Inn.
172	No need for new houses anywhere as will <u>overcrowd</u> character of the village.
176	Pendant Pitch access road not satisfactory.
177	Any area where soakaway drainage may affect adjacent properties.
178	Right hand side of Little Birch Road from Barrack Hill – open countryside. From turn off to Wrigglebrook.
183	Large fields where arable or pastoral farming is already placed. Due to removing land from working British farms and it allows the possibility of more dwelling ie housing estates!
185	No.
186	On green belt land.
187	No building on any green belt land.
190	Not where area is already very built up ie Castle Inn area.
A	Definitely not on existing farmland.

Q7: Do you have any other comments on housing, including housing need?

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
3	Now that Britain, or maybe England, is departing from the European Union with all its cosiness and benefits, nobody will wish to live here, and need for homes will dwindle to nothing.
4	We need more houses because the younger generation are not staying in the village, also we have to think of the older generation to make it possible for them to stay.
5	More housing will produce more cars and lorries, adversely affecting the narrow and dangerous lanes.
10	LB has limited local employment and inevitably poor public transport. It cannot be transformed into something it will never be. Thus it will remain a commuter community.
12	New building should be for local needs.
14	Please consider access. We may need housing, but we do not need roads.
15	Try to be accommodating and positive towards development projects. The area will be uplifted by these sort of housing increases – keep a mixture of housing.
17	We need more young families. There is a good bus service, school, church etc. We really do not want to turn into a retirement area.
19	Any housing must be as energy efficient as possible.
21	Houses must have sensible gardens – for family life outside the building.
24	Suggest new houses allowed for development in existing resident’s gardens to facilitate family members who wish to remain in the village.
25	Huge problem with parking outside school for lengthy periods of time. This should be addressed before allowing village expansion increasing the demand on the school and travel to the school. Perhaps limit the length of time cars park on the road to ten minutes.
27	No.
30	No.
31	I feel 18 homes in 15 years is too few for growth. All kinds of housing offering diversity and homes for a wide demographic and placed of employment would enrich the community.
32	There is no housing need in either parish. If an adjoin dwelling is allowed for a relative what becomes of the property when the relative dies? It’s housing through STEALTH!
34	Housing need locally is questionable. Many of the older residents (of which there is a high proportion) will be dying off over the next ten to twenty years, releasing property for the younger generation.
37	Not convinced that there is a housing need. The demographic is quite old. Within the next 15 years many existing homes will become available to younger families anyway.
40	No.
42	No opinion.
43	Housing Association/Supported housing/sheltered accommodation houses should be built in walking distance of a bus stop.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
49	Affordable 2-bed homes for single people or a couple NOT always for families.
51	Aim to build environmentally sensitive structures with an emphasis on “Eco house building” techniques.
52	There is a need for housing for young people with families. Many young people who have grown up in the village have to live elsewhere due to lack of suitable housing.
53	In an ideal world we would all love our kids to be able to live in the towns and villages where they have been brought up. In reality this does not happen. Housing should fit/blend in to existing environment. The 6 large houses in Wigglesbrook Lane are a prime example of how wrong it can be.
59	How important it is to keep young villagers in the village, give them the opportunity to live and stay living where they grew up. Also self build plots providing an alternative way to getting onto the housing ladder.
60	Family homes are needed to retain the younger generation to remain in the area.
61	Prioritize younger people especially young people with a link to the local area.
62	To retain our young people in the area we need more affordable homes for them to buy or rent. Which could then lead onto new business development and so more employment.
65	Feel the village needs a small amount of development but needs to be limited and well controlled.
66	There should be a mix of housing types and styles. Housing should be in keeping with the existing scattered groups.
67	Starter/live work builds should be restricted by covenant to local residents/young people of the parish, <u>not</u> used as overspill social housing – risk of destroying the character of the village and disadvantaging parishioners.
72	Development could be done on ‘derelict’ properties for example Dobbin Cottage which has been unoccupied since 2005 and is currently not in a fit state to be lived in.
75	Development of this area must proceed very carefully. It is a really lovely area but could be spoilt by planning being granted without careful consideration.
78	Little Birch is essentially a scattered parish. All new development should continue this pattern.
82	Encouragement for self builders as provides a cheaper alternative for those wanting to get on the housing ladder. Young locals who have grown up in the village find it hard to remain due to high house prices and relative low wages in Hereford. 18 houses in 15 years is too few.
87	I believe there is a need for more housing many young people have to leave the village in order to buy a house.
93	No.
97	Need to keep to existing settlement type – LB being linear, Aconbury more difficult as pretty sporadic.
99	There is a need for a variety of options to encourage youngsters to remain in the village that are viable and affordable. Also provision is required for older/elderly in the community who wish to/need to downsize and who may need to be supported but who would prefer to remain within the parish.

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
100	Important to keep children of local families in area if they wish need young families to balance number of retired.
101	Village should not grow too big. Do not allow infill in large stretches of roadside or we become too urbanised.
104	I am not entirely convinced that there is a housing need in Little Birch, I feel there are more important factors to consider that would be more beneficial eg shop, improvements to roads.
108	There should be more affordable smaller homes. We have enough bungalows, 4 or 5 bedroom homes and 'retirement' bungalows!
116	Affordable housing so our young people can remain here, either to rent or buy.
118	We do need a greater variety of housing, including starter homes. New dwellings should be built in materials and styles which fit with the traditional vernacular architecture.
121	If we have to build 18 new homes in the next 15 years – that is only one per year. By building starter homes/live/work/sheltered – we would be welcoming a greater range of people.
123	As Little Birch and Aconbury has an ageing population it would be good if housing could attract younger families into the area. Also through the building of specific housing we could attract a more diverse population.
124	Many existing dwellings have large gardens big enough to accommodate a new dwelling. More permissions granted for 'infill' building.
127	The village needs to grow in proportion so that it can support places such as the local pub.
128	More houses are needed to bring more people into the village.
129	There's a need for more houses. Especially in terms of starting/keeping a local shop/pub etc. Also there's nowhere for myself to buy to stay local to where I was brought up.
132	Need more houses in the village.
135	My son is 22 yrs old and lives at home with Mum and dad. I really can not see him leaving home, and being able to put money down on a house.
142	Transport links would need to be improved ie public transport.
143	Bus links improved.
144	Affordable housing for local village people – however that is best achieved.
145	Better chance for young people to buy first house.
146	Affordable housing for rural workers and local family members.
151	The building of around 18 new homes will put further strain on village roads and lanes, which are already quite worn.
154	No.
159	If houses are built, they need to be more affordable for the younger generation to either buy or rent.
160	Houses should be added in, individually where existing dwellings are – in keeping with the current style of the area – which is small collections of houses – scattered in region.
161	New houses built (in groups especially) must have green areas (trees planted in the area) to reduce pollution.

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
162	Any new houses should 'fit in' with other dwellings.
164	Increased housing will have an impact on services – doctor, school etc. How will this be addressed?
166	Best build houses round the built-up areas of Little Birch and Kingsthorpe, not ruin the countryside.
167	Farming, footpaths, countryside are essential. New houses should be developed in areas already built up. People move to rural areas for a reason. Wildlife is v important for example hedgehogs.
171	Any holiday homes and live work units should have covenants restricting future change of use into residential.
172	Not enough <u>public services</u> to support new housing. Each new house includes at least 1 or 2 cars. <u>Roads too narrow, schools and GP services over-burdened already.</u>
179	This community has a limited ability to support large-scale development but a modest increase would be sustainable.
183	Building too many houses in a rural area reduces the 'sort after' factors of said area. The lack of housing is needed closer to cities not this far spend back.
185	Don't over build there are already lots of houses in the area more needed by town.
190	There is a need for affordable housing for young people to be able to stay in this area.
A	Unless there is a better public transport facility than currently exists (or does not), then it follows that the occupiers will need their own transport.

Q9: Do you have any other comments on traffic, transport and access?

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
5	Suggest an axle weight limit for heavy goods vehicles on our narrow and dangerous village lanes. Houses x 18 = cars x 36 = increase of traffic.
6	Although not in this parish, Little Birch Road between Barrack Hill and Parish Lane is the main access road to this parish and residents have had to put up with the appalling road surface for far too long.
10	We don't need more regulation. Provide the basic facilities, and maintain them. Allow them to evolve according to changing environment and needs. Don't restrict, do react.
11	There is already too much commercial traffic going through the village ruining the verges and roads – more building will make it worse.
12	Traffic, road safety etc are not problems in Little Birch therefore no need to spend money on improvements.
14	If you want to save money, pot-holes are as effective as sleeping policemen for slowing people down (as long as they don't get <u>too</u> dire). Buses v. important for older residents.
17	See above – a 30 mph limit in both villages would help to reduce problems for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders. More notices regarding these users but don't overdo it as that simply dumbs down the danger.
18	The nature of the roads in and around Little Birch are such that speed of traffic is not a serious issue. The majority of traffic in the area is local and most appreciate that pedestrians and other users could appear around the corner.
20	Road maintenance from bottom of Barrack Hill to Parish Lane is atrocious. Please can we have the road re-surfaced. It is used by farm vehicles and this plus the cars lead to potholes. Temporary repairs do not last.
21	People are generally 'lane' aware Roads and transport in winter/snow can be treacherous. Lack of public transport is an issue for elderly/non-drivers.
24	Suggest speed restriction throughout the whole village of 30 mph at the most and 20 mph in certain areas. This would then facilitate the majority of safety features listed.
25	The extra bus services do not seem to be used much but have increased congestion on unsuitable roads where it is not possible to pass a bus eg bottom of Barrack Hill now quite dangerous when bus in use.
26	My daughter was knocked into the hedge on Ticklewithy Pitch by a hit and run driver whilst walking. I have been forced to run into a gateway on Mesne Lane to avoid being struck by cars when walking there at night on several occasions. Problem? Speed!
28	Stop large buses, they will not reverse, causing horses and cars to back up. 20 mph at all times.
30	Change 30mph to 40 mph in certain areas.
31	Run the old Ross to Hereford service via Hoarwithy for morning commuters and school/college students + 1 or 2 return buses on the same route back to Ross via Hoarwithy in the evening. A park and ride for Hereford city.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
32	Road signage such as: 'Aconbury welcomes careful drivers', 'Little Birch – please keep within speed limits', 'Beware of hazards on country lanes'. Can there be a limit on the size of HGVs?
34	Improve public transport with smaller buses. Improve precautions against snow/ice up hill from Aconbury beside Nether Wood and Barrack Hill.
37	Improved public transport would help. Preparation for ice and snow when Barrack Hill becomes quite dangerous.
40	Having a nearly always empty bus (44) causing chaos is not a good idea.
42	The road infrastructure in Little Birch and Aconbury is poor, (roads too narrow, junctions with poor visibility). To support increased traffic resulting from increased development improvements are needed. Already the bus service (44) and increased use of Barrack Hill by HGVs is causing safety concerns for residents, especially pedestrians.
43	The bus that now travels from Kingsthorpe bus stop to Little Dewchurch is too big for the road and the number of people using it.
47	30 mph on road from A49 at Cross-in-Hand up to Kingsthorpe is imperative.
48	50 mph speed limit on A49 at Cross-in-Hand dwellings and junctions of Callow and Aconbury roads (desirable). 40 mph speed limit on road from A49 at Cross-in-Hand up to Kingsthorpe (definitely needed) or even 30 mph.
49	The A49 and Kingsthorpe Road is too fast and needs either speed reductions or traffic calming measures ie speed cameras and speed bumps.
50	Need to reduce speed to 50 on main Ross road and 40 on side road.
51	Develop cycle routes, particularly to get children to and from local schools.
53	If we are having more houses = more people then we need more buses.
55	More public transport and cycle routes.
59	Maintaining byways open to all traffic to be able to maintain access when necessary.
60	Byways open to all traffic should be maintained to allow access when necessary especially during winter months if snow is a problem and emergency services are needed.
61	Maintenance of byways open to all traffic to enable easy access when necessary.
62	Byways open to all traffic maintained so access can be used when necessary.
63	Local roads in a terrible state – action needs to be taken to improve them – not just filling holes.
64	Roads and verges in a very poor state with little maintenance by SHDC. Very few passing points on narrow country lanes.
65	Clearer speed limit signs throughout the village.
66	Limit vehicle size and weight on the back lanes. Avoid upgrading lanes to make easy rat runs. Also improve bus service to make it useable for commuters and younger people/older people.
67	It is essential to fill/maintain salt bins – residents are willing to assist in salting roads in winter; but need the resources to do so. Potholes/poor maintenance of roads impacts very negatively on visitors to the village – it <u>must</u> put prospective incomers/purchasers off. Massive deterioration in 10 years!

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
68	Roads need to be maintained and grit bins filled and checked – present road conditions put people off when looking at properties. Better bus service first thing for people to get into town for work.
72	Traffic goes too fast along the village lanes as there is no speed limit – 30 mph would seem appropriate. Also some of the vehicles are too large and drive with wheels on both verges – agricultural vehicles are particularly bad. The road surfaces are awful – full of pot holes – in particular Little Birch Road in Kings Thorn must be one of the worst roads in the County.
74	Road maintenance should be high on agenda – no more signs!
81	Please maintain bus links to main cities and towns.
82	I feel our roads are currently safe and users travel at a sensible speeds. We currently have the appropriate passing places, though stones and other marker posts residents put along public rights of way limit passing in some areas. Access to byways open to all traffic (BOAT's) should be maintained and not prevented, as allows access when necessary or in emergencies ie winter snow.
85	Road conditions in some areas is so poor it is simply dangerous – Little Birch Road is a good example. Clearly good drainage engineering is required as well for this lane.
86	Road maintenance of lanes is poor and therefore hazardous to cyclists, pedestrians and drivers.
93	No.
95	Please reduce the signage, remove all reflectors and stop people filling in the ditches.
99	Should the village grow, consideration would need to be given to an extension of the bus service which currently runs through three times each week.
100	Narrow twisty roads keep down traffic speed. No need for footpaths alongside roads, not many cars. Safe to walk on roads and cycle. No need for more signage.
102	More frequent speed checks in this area, particularly on Barrack Hill.
104	Better signage to the church.
109	More speed checks as much of the traffic exceeds the existing speed limits. This increases danger to pedestrians, children and pets.
111	I would like to see the maximum speed along Wrigglebrook Lane reduced from 30 mph to 20 mph. For the majority of the length of the lane 20 mph is plenty fast enough. Many people walk up and down it and are put at risk by cars going over 20 mph. Also possibly a speed camera in the 30 mph zone by the Nunnery and primary school. Cars often speed along this road.
114	Traffic volume and speed has increased throughout the village and lanes in recent years and measures should be taken to 'calm' traffic and speed.
117	Far too many cases of speeding, noticeable to dog-walkers in particular. The back road extension of Parish Lane to the A49 seems to disproportionately attract drivers unwilling, and often incapable, of reversing. More <u>formal</u> passing points? The unmade "roads" past the pub and the Thorn is a disgrace, and the bin men refuse to use it. Hence rubbish bags Thurs-Fri on the "main" road. It can only get worse, and is a health hazard. The residents need to press for a solution.
118	Footpaths on main routes through the area are a priority for me (the Thorn, Barrack Hill). Traffic calming is also vital, especially on Barrack Hill and the Thorn.

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
121	The bus route between Hereford and Gloucester is a life line – but there is only a small stretch of the joint parishes covered by public transport.
122	The Kingsthorpe Road is still used as a rat run to get ahead of slow lorries on the A49 – this needs to be addressed immediately before there is a fatality – <u>40 zone</u> like Callow or even better <u>30 zone</u> (there are also lots of hidden entrances. Now that there is yellow lines outside the MB school it has pushed the traffic right back up the hill – this is extremely dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. I have mentioned this to the school, traffic wardens and now the police without anyone doing anything about it.
123	Only a tiny part of the joint area is actually on a bus route.
124	The section of road from the top of the Callow through Kings Thorn to Much Birch is only 30 mph through the village area however there are dwellings all along this road and still too much speeding. I would like to see this ENTIRE road from the Callow turn up to Much Birch school a 30 mph zone. Also we should make it safer and easier for children to walk or cycle from Aconbury/Little Birch to Much Birch primary school.
127	This is a village, don't want pavements, lighting etc.
130	Due to rural location many people rely on their cars. Better public transport, car sharing, use of e-bikes and walking (for example to Much Birch) would make traffic more sustainable. Providing solar powered lights along main roads and footpaths would make these spaces safer and encourage walking/cycling.
141	The road from the A49 towards Aconbury needs a lower speed limit. It is used a lot by cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders and people drive very fast along this stretch.
142	No.
143	No.
144	Only to encourage walking and cycling wherever possible.
145	No.
151	Heavy duty trucks and lorries create significant problems for other road users, eg cars and also pedestrians. Clearance of village roads, when snow and ice are present, is seriously inadequate.
152	Yes. Bottom of Barrack Hill. VERY dangerous corner. VERY dangerous.
161	Promote road safety for horses and their riders, this means allowing plenty of room and treating our safety with the same importance of those passing each other in cars. Additionally, promote health and tests as this is a rather elderly community of which some are unfit to drive safely.
164	Additional housing will increase traffic on already very poorly maintained roads.
166	Transport is reliable, not much traffic however speed limits need to be maintained. The roads need to be looked after as there are too many potholes. The signing in the local area is not good.
167	Speed limits are important. Pot holes and lanes need to be maintained. Reliable public transport.
171	Signage is very poor around Little Birch.
172	Little Birch and Aconbury are small, attractive, rural villages which should enable inhabitants to walk, cycle and ride in safety and peace. These villages and roads were <u>not</u> built with large heavy delivery vehicles and fast cars in mind. <u>More</u>

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
	housing will bring <u>more</u> cars, road widening, signage, noise and air pollution. Most inhabitants wish to avoid these (plus, public transport route through village <u>essential</u>).
177	A weight limit on the road circuit from the Barrack Hill turn off around to the end of Little Birch Road.
178	White lines at junctions extremely poor. Poor pull in facilities. Little Birch Road – very poor surface and in winter extremely icy. Signage – I would like to see road names ie Newtown Road, Mense Lane etc.
183	The speed some drivers drive on single track roads is dangerous for children, bikes and horses. And having the single decker bus, although its good for the elderly the speed and route is significantly unsafe as I've nearly been hit numerous times on my bike.
185	If people drove at 20 mph we would not require some of the above and give pets/pedestrians and cyclists a chance.
186	Too much traffic!
187	Stop the rat run up and down Barrack Hill.
A	<p>This is a hot potato but fortunately as the traffic within the parish is relatively modest it's not a problem. But the condition of the roads leaves a great deal to be desired. In my opinion they cannot be considered safe for cyclists and pedestrians. The speeds that I have seen a minority driving at is nothing but an 'accident waiting to happen'. Lowering the speed limit to say 20 mph in certain areas is still too fast. There is already traffic calming in force namely single track roads with passing places but ...</p> <p>I'm not sure what can be done about this as irrespective as to what measures are introduced, then without basic common sense from the motorist then they will have zero effect. May be a good idea for the Parish Council to take out an advertisement in the monthly newsletter promoting careful or more considerate driving – just a thought.</p>

Q12: Are there any specific locations you think suitable for new employment development? If so, where, and why?

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
10	No. Let the businesses drive the demand, and don't hold them back with restrictive regulation.
11	No.
17	Only where is good access.
25	Old Methodist Chapel ideal for a shop/café/computer centre.
31	Aconbury Church. Out buildings.
33	Aconbury and Little Birch are both very rural parishes. New employment should be limited to home-working and LOW NOISE workshops.
42	None.
65	Depends on the business.
67	Potential to repurpose and renovate existing barns/agricultural buildings. Potential to rebuild 'broken' stock as live/work opportunities as well as residential.
68	Existing barns and buildings.
91	No.
93	No.
100	Maybe in farm buildings but would lead to more traffic on narrow roads.
117	Difficult to think of any obvious sites. There are several derelict buildings which might be suitable.
121	As the 2 parishes do not have a focal meeting point – a shop/post office would benefit everyone.
123	A local shop and post office would be good for the community.
127	None.
130	Old sawmill site in Kings Thorne but that's been earmarked for housing now.
133	Old sawmill site Kings Thorne.
160	Too broad!
161	No opinion.
166	Aconbury could do with a pub or café to increase trade.
167	Stabling in Aconbury. Keep the rural places rural and introduce new employment to the more built up areas.
171	Conversion of barn at Castle Inn into <u>commercial</u> units, not residential.
172	None.
178	Aconbury Woods – forestry training and employment. Heritage – preservation of woodland.
180	Methodist chapel and village hall area, ideal places for a local easy access shop and coffee shop, for those who don't want a pub environment etc.
181	Castle Inn – could convert barn to make shop selling produce and crafts.
183	A village shop. In the same place in Much Birch or a new location as the elderly cannot access town easily.
A	The infrastructure simply doesn't exist – roads, acceptable broadband speed, etc.

Q13: Do you have any other comments on jobs and the local economy?

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
5	The ancient, rural, non-industrial character of the village needs to be protected by this generation, as we are custodians for the future.
10	See above.
11	Most people are retired in this area – others work in the town.
19	Fast fibre (FTTP) access is essential for effective home working and small businesses.
25	Parish roadsman vital to maintain ditch drainage. A village bakery would be great. The removal of ivy from trees is essential before the trees are choked and die becoming hazardous.
26	Telephone landlines are unable to provide any broadband at my address, hindering my children’s education. My daughter relocated her social media business to Ross on Wye for web access.
31	Creating employment opportunities outside the city within local communities reduces congestion and CO ₂ emissions.
33	Both parishes are unsuitable areas for employment in general!
34	A community shop would be invaluable.
37	Home-working is likely to be extended so good broadband and mobile phone reception is essential.
42	Little Birch & Aconbury doesn’t have a local economy (apart from farming and a pub) and doesn’t have a road infrastructure to support such like so should remain residential.
52	Offices and rural workshops should be encouraged to promote local employment.
59	Diversification should be encouraged, as well as tourism in the village.
60	Tourism like camping or glamping.
62	Encourage the set up of local crafts, tourism and small enterprises.
66	Small scale businesses as a priority. Nothing out of scale for the community.
68	Better broadband would encourage more small businesses and help the economy in the village.
82	Road side stalls for plants or eggs etc. Diversification and tourism should be encouraged, such as cycling and camping.
88	The village needs a local shop, maybe next to the local pub.
93	No.
100	Should not encourage sites for industry. Small businesses should be on land of person running them and living there.
101	The village is not relevant for major development.
116	Decent broadband and mobile connection is vital. Very poor at the moment.
121	Local economy could be enhanced by rural tourism:- walks, tracks, trails.
123	Attracting a younger more diverse population to the area would enhance the locality.
124	We should encourage tourism to our villages to help support the pub and a new shop.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
130	A basic shop and/or post office would be very useful and would save a lot of car journeys to Hereford.
133	Local shop or post office would be very useful.
141	Encouraging more farm diversification to create more jobs.
148	We need a local shop!
151	Little Birch is essentially a commuter village, and much of its charm derives from this.
161	A positive attitude must be promoted for the farms and plantations, particularly a positive attitude towards the economic migrants working in the area.
164	Noise and traffic increase must be considered if employment opportunities are increased.
166	It is important to ensure a village has local businesses that are supported, however do not attract tourism through larger productions and businesses.
167	Broadband should be improved to encourage new home businesses hence keeping the countryside.
171	It would be great to see more businesses come into the local area.
172	Many people retired or work in local towns. Answered in Q10. Little Birch too small for new employment development. Its <u>residential!</u>
180	There is nothing here for the younger generation, however not only that, there is nothing for my generation, no jobs to move for nowhere to spend money locally without venturing away.
183	It doesn't need increasing significantly. Transport to Hereford is fine.
185	Keep the pub open.

Q15: Do you think that more leisure and recreational facilities are needed? Please tell us how and where this could be achieved. Are there any other community services you would like to see provided, if possible?

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
5	If possible, a shop/post office would help.
6	Perhaps a childrens' play area.
10	Communication services are vital. LB village hall is currently a run down undesirable site. It missed out on millennium funds. Pubs will live or die according to their services and quality. You can't keep a failing business alive on subsidies. Churches are failing throughout the country. LB is not unique. Refer to C of E for solution, not neighbourhood plan. Aconbury wood works just fine, thank you.
11	Leisure and recreational facilities have been attempted many times and are not generally well attended in the village hall. However, a voluntary service to help old and disabled people would no doubt be well received, especially gardening! Also being taken to the surgery if needed.
14	No.
20	Would like to see a full list of what the Little Birch (and Much Birch) Village Hall is used for.
21	Added leisure and recreational facilities would be a bonus. Using Little Birch Village Hall. Care for elderly/isolated singletons is problematic – so perhaps group events? Transport to major shopping areas for all?
22	Make the buses better.
25	A village shop/café would be very useful. The placing of notices next to the bus shelter is a distraction for drivers at a busy junction. A better forum for this is needed in the village rather than this array of large boards. There is a notice board at the top of Holy Thorn which could be used more.
31	Local U3A group.
32	Post office, shop.
33	Little Birch village hall has 'space and time' to offer groups catering to all ages for recreation. If land could be found (or donated) a playing field or playground would be of great benefit. Cycle groups could be shown that the two parishes offer diverse topography and relatively quiet roads. Walking groups should be encouraged to enjoy the walks in Aconbury and Athelstan's woods. How about a 'Birches' group for monthly walks in the area?
34	Improvements to the building fabric and facilities of the village hall is greatly needed to provide a focus for the community. This could include a shop/post office/crèche etc/meeting rooms/café etc. Opening of hedgerows and replacement with fences in places to expose the many wonderful views would be of great benefit to tourism and local life.
37	The Village Hall already plays an important role in the community – with the right support its role could be further extended with say: a shop/café/crèche, day time classes – it could be the social focus for a host of activities in this somewhat

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
	spread out village. At present its activities depend on the energy of a few local stalwarts.
40	No. People should make the most of the area as it is – eg the peace and quiet and the countryside.
42	I don't think leisure or recreational facilities are required, and there are no community services that I would like to see provided.
43	Playing fields for children. Could local children use the facilities of Much Birch School during the summer holidays to play tennis etc?
44	Yes, sports facilities are relatively cheap and easy (rugby/football pitches).
45	I would like to see "Keep Fit" classes put on at Little Birch Hall. Maybe the Council could be approached?
48	Some car parking areas should be created at the entrance(s) to Aconbury and Athelstans wood, or within the boundaries of the woods. Not everyone is able to walk up to the woods from home.
50	No.
51	Childrens play area. Football, cricket type pitch. Maybe even tennis courts. Table tennis in village hall and more evening classes locally.
59	Camping and tourism through diversification. Leisure and recreational facilities aimed towards the younger villagers.
64	Play area for young children.
65	I feel the village has a good community offering a wide range of activities.
67	Scouts/guides etc (village hall as base). Archery. Shooting (clay and target). Plenty of land available by negotiation. Lack of broadband speed massively impacts (negatively) on the village. 6 miles from city and less that 1mb/sec guaranteed! Ridiculous.
68	Archery and shooting clubs. Scouts etc. Hobby type clubs for children in the village hall.
73	More for primary children out of school activities. More for teens.
74	No more leisure facilities.
76	No, I do NOT think more leisure and recreational facilities are needed.
77	I do NOT think more recreational facilities are needed.
82	Leisure and recreational facilities for younger villagers and families. Such as exercise bars and or goal posts in the communal gardens @ the top of Barrack Hill. Cycle routes in and around Athelstan's wood and Aconbury. Encourage diversification through camping and tourism, this could improve business/use of the Castle Inn.
88	A community shop!!
93	Maintain good community transport.
99	If the village is extended/enlarged and families with children are attracted to it, then consideration must be given to play area(s) for the younger ones (swings etc) and a sports field for older ones.
100	Facilities for walking are well provided for. Small population would not justify expense of providing eg sports facilities. A shop and post office would be nice but maybe not feasible.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
101	Apart from current walking type activity in the area, there are just not enough people locally to support developments – “pie in the sky” facilities are just not relevant. Do not want the area overdeveloped – its charm is the way it is now.
102	A local shop would be a very good service.
104	Personally I’d like a slimming world at the village hall.
106	Yes, a kid’s playground should be made available.
108	Shop, post office.
109	A local shop.
117	There is a spatial mismatch in the locations of church, village hall and pub. The village hall could be sold off for housing and the pub adapted to fulfil that role. This would create a greater sense of community, especially if some minor retail functions could be added on eg part-time post office, shop. Playing field?
118	It would be good to have more facilities, based around village hall, eg playground, football pitch, exercise classes. However the reality is we are a small community and such facilities probably require combining with other areas such as Much Dewchurch. Tourism could be boosted by promoting walks in the area, and making more of the Aconbury Fort and stunning views all around.
121	Natural play area for children. Fitness trails for old and young. Nature trails – what to look for throughout year/seasons. History trails – hill fort, church.
122	We need a park, a place to meet and children to play. Without a village centre, a shop and a pub the village will slowly die. Much Birch school and the monastery have the perfect location for a joint parish community centre. Look at Woolhope and that’s in the middle of nowhere never mind the A49.
123	If we want to attract young families we need to provide facilities for children in particular. This could be an adventure playground or an area in the woods for climbing etc. More could be made of existing woodland to attract families. Nature walks with signage for example. Also explanation of Hill Fort, and ensure view of Hereford from Hill Fort.
124	We should improve the paths in Aconbury woods to allow for mobility scooters, pushchairs and cyclists – like Haugh Wood and Dinmore Wood. I would like to see a <u>NEW</u> Little Birch Village Hall with a recreational field and play area for children – a sports pitch and more local family friendly events.
125	Use of school field in holidays and evenings (for local kids).
126	No.
127	Post office and shop.
130	Aconbury and Athelstan’s woods are on the doorstep. Guided walks/audio guides/apps could enhance visitor experience. They could also host woodworking courses, forest schools etc. Village hall could do with an upgrade – it’s freezing in winter! Also a car-sharing scheme would be useful.
141	More clubs for pre-school generation eg gymnastics. Meeting place for rurally isolated people, especially retired farmers. This is something I am looking at diversifying one of our farm buildings to do. A local shop would be of great benefit.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
144	I would like to see footpaths throughout the parishes more clearly signed and marked. A return of small local enterprise, garage, shop etc post office, adventure playground? Community alternative energy production? – encouragement for renewable energy production.
145	Can be something what helps to people be busy.
150	A local shop would be very helpful.
151	A shop/post office would be an obvious asset in terms of community provision.
159	I would like to see a small area of land be turned into an adventure playground for the young children of today and of the future, as I feel there is nothing in this village for them.
161	Both younger and older people depend heavily on the bus services, the single decker from King's Thorn to Ross must sync with the Hereford to Gloucester double decker so that morning, noon, and evening times are as convenient as possible. Any renewable energy opportunities must be taken.
162	Village shop and post office – possible maybe in an outbuilding at The Castle. Play-park maybe at Parish Field opposite village hall.
166	If possible, broadband needs to be focussed on as it becomes an integral part of most homes. The Castle and the village hall are important in creating a community spirit. The bus is the most important transport facility as it provides access into town to younger and older people. The Church and woods again cater for the needs of select number of people, such as religious and dog walkers.
171	Absolutely! There are not enough local businesses within the area and this should be encouraged.
172	Happy with village services as they area, thank you! (see Q14)
178	I would like to see the schools open their doors to the community to forge sport in the school holidays so all the community can use their resources with appropriate supervision.
180	Yes, there is currently nothing for younger people, many other villages have shops, pubs, youth centres, I believe it would be a great interest to everyone to encourage the development of group sporting activities, crafts fairs as well as more places such as shops and coffee houses.
183	The footpaths could be advertised as 'loop walks' ie 4K 5K so more tourism but for the right reasons, these could be advertised in the bus stop to include the local pubs – they get business. The footpaths would be better maintained encouraging 'self help' to chop stray brambles etc. These could include cycle routes even local guides for holiday makers etc as there are a lot of holiday lets in the area.
A	In a perfect world it would be nice to have more leisure and recreational facilities but Little Birch is a village so unless there existed a current demand for the facility then no one would be willing to fund it.

Q18: If there are any particular local features, open spaces or views that you think should be protected, please describe them below. Examples could include cider orchards, Higgins Well, the Holy Thorn, the Parish Field and Aconbury Hill Fort.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
1	All of the above very important.
2	Aconbury Hill Fort, Parish Field, Kingsthorn Common (bus shelter), small common, top of Barrack Hill.
5	Village views and vistas: many of these stunning views are being obscured due to failure to maintain ancient species hedgerows, thus denying enjoyment by residents and visitors.
6	Higgins Well.
10	Leading question. Not appropriate. Keep the good things but don't live in the past.
11	All of the above.
12	Higgins Well, Parish Field, Aconbury Hill Fort.
17	All of the above.
19	All of the above are important. The green lane network is quite unique and needs to be preserved.
20	Aconbury Hill Fort, Athelstan's Wood.
21	All of the above.
23	All of the above.
24	Higgins Well, the Holy Thorn, the Parish Field and Aconbury Hill Fort.
25	Higgins Well, the Holy Thorn, Aconbury Hill Fort and the Parish Field. The green lanes are lovely spaces for walking. Aconbury, Athelstan, Wallbrook and Rough Hill Wood.
26	Aconbury, Athelstan's wood. All footpaths and bridleways.
31	It goes without saying the above-mentioned features should be protected. We are fortunate in enjoying plenty of local green space and expansive views and building is unlikely to severely compromise either in our lifetimes.
32	Aconbury Hill Fort, Higgins Well, Holy Thorn, Parish Field.
33	Aconbury and Little Birch are very rural parishes and any additional development will have a big impact. The 'green corridor' that runs along the road from Caldicott to Little Birch chapel should be protected. Cider orchards are a tourist attraction and open views across farmland should not be spoilt by new housing.
34	See note under Q15 re exposure of secret view from lanes throughout the area.
35	Aconbury Woods and Hill Fort.
37	All of the above are important to the locality. Aconbury woods and hill fort are of particular historic interest. The high hedgerows along the lanes often hide wonderful views – it would be good if gaps could be created to reveal the beautiful countryside.
38	Aconbury church.
43	Aconbury Hill Fort.
44	Woodlands.
45	Historical features should be protected, such as Higgins Well, the Holy Thorn and Aconbury Hill Fort. The area around Aconbury Church should not be built on.

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
	Cider orchards should be protected because they are part of the character of the area, similarly green lanes or B.O.A.T.s.
48	As a newish resident we do not know where all the above are – so perhaps more information could be provided? All above should be protected.
49	Aconbury Hill Fort and any other historic site in the area should be protected.
51	Aconbury woodland and Athelstans wood. All green lanes.
53	All of above.
63	All green fields should be protected.
64	All green fields should be protected in the Parish.
65	Feel all of the above should be protected.
68	Higgins Well, Parish Field.
76	All of those listed above should be protected.
77	Those listed above should be protected.
93	All the above.
100	All above should be protected. View from road by chapel should be protected.
101	Views across to Hereford just off the top from the trig point – this year it has become obscured as trees have grown.
102	All of the above, Aconbury woods and Athestan woods. The view to the south east from Barrack Hill (from the old Methodist Chapel and the village hall).
103	Higgins Well, Aconbury Fort, Holy Thorn.
104	The church.
109	All of the above. Aconbury Wood. The easterly view from the old Methodist Chapel.
110	Higgins Well, Holy Thorn, daffodil fields, pub.
111	1. Aconbury Hill Fort 2 Aconbury woods 3 any large wooded area
117	Most of Little Birch has admirable views, rural calm, quiet walks, which need protecting. It would be invidious to select just one or two. A formal viewpoint on Aconbury Hill looking over Hereford would add substantially to the joy of the walks.
118	Higgins Well and Aconbury Hill Fort definitely need protection. At the same time they could be sensitively promoted as attractions to the area, to encourage more leisure use of the numerous footpaths. Footpath upkeep has improved but needs more input. A local work party?
120	Yes all of the above.
121	All of the above. Several views have become obscured due to trees growing – eg Hereford, Black Mountains from hill fort.
123	Aconbury Hill Fort and all existing woodland. The Castle pub. All above. Views in particular from Aconbury have been lost over the years due to the growth.
125	Aconbury Hill Fort.
126	All the above.
129	All that are mentioned as examples.
130	Aconbury Hill Fort is the dominant local landmark, it's a pity it's so overgrown at the top. It would be great to open up some views toward Hereford and Black Mountains.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
131	All of the above, plus the character of the many green lanes that criss cross the area.
141	I think that protecting open spaces and views is very important, however I do feel that for diversifications such as shepherds huts that planning should be more lenient as they do fit in with the nature of the landscape and are a moveable object.
142	Aconbury Hill Fort. All of the above. Nether wood.
143	Aconbury Hill Fort. All of the above.
144	All of the above and possibly, the view from the Fort Rampart that looks over the Black Mountains in Aconbury Wood. All existing woodland and meadows as well.
149	All of the above.
150	Higgins Well – Aconbury Hill Fort – Parish Field – all very important for the community.
151	Aconbury Hill Fort is of major historical significance and could be better signposted. As a village on the shoulder of Aconbury Hill, unfortunately too many superb views eg of the Forest Plateau, the Welsh Hills, and the Malverns are increasingly obscured owing to over-grown hedgerows, suffering from lack of maintenance and clearance.
152	All of the above.
153	All of the above.
154	The Holy Thorn, Higgins Well, Aconbury Hill Fort.
160	Hill Fort and Aconbury Woods. Athelstan Woods. Higgins Well.
161	No opinion.
162	Higgins Well – Holy Thorn – Aconbury Hill Fort – St Mary’s Church.
164	Current views and open spaces are why people want to live in the area and therefore should be retained.
166	The view from Holy Thorn is beautiful and should be kept. Similarly the Aconbury Hill Fort and the view points in the woods are incredible and unique to the area.
167	All of the above mentioned in Q18 plus the woods and footpaths.
171	Higgins Well, Parish Field – more should be done with this!, Aconbury Hill Fort, Aconbury Woods, Haugh Woods.
172	All of the above [+ green lanes, ancient trees and woodland, wildflower meadows] should be protected and all green spaces. It is important that houses are <u>not</u> built on green lanes which are a unique historical feature of Little Birch. Nor are green lanes concreted over as this increases flooding risk by reducing groundwater absorbability. More attention should be paid to conserving wildlife eg rare birds and butterflies and wild flowers. On green lanes and verges, woodlands and meadows.
177	Higgins Well, Aconbury Hill Fort.
178	All of the above.
180	All above.
181	Higgins Well, Holy Thorn, Parish Field, Aconbury Hill Fort.
183	Aconbury Hill Fort – although the duchy workers already do this to an extremely high professional standard.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
189	Higgins Well, Holy Thorn, Parish Field, Aconbury Hill Fort, Aconbury and Athelstan Woods.
190	Higgins Well, Holy Thorn, Aconbury Hill Fort, St Mary's Church, the view opposite chapel.
A	The example of Higgins Well is mentioned. I live next to it and have often heard the odd rambling party muttering about it's upkeep – or lack of it. I believe there are a party of volunteers that would be willing to help out locally but this is an area that the Parish Council could do more in promoting/organising. Costs associated with same would be minimal.

Q20: Do you have any other comments on the local environment? This is your opportunity to tell us your views on conserving and improving the local environment.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
3	“Little Birch has a disparate architectural vernacular” – quote from planning officer. If any new builds follow this pattern we might get some round houses, which have nice roofs and interesting furniture, or maybe hexagonal houses, which fit together nicely and can share a big roof. Perhaps one or two ridiculously tall and thin houses to add interest.
5	Restoration of views throughout the village by reduction of hedgerows to an equivalent height of 25 years ago would hugely enhance this village amenity, and improve enjoyment for everyone. Improved snow and ice clearance in winter would be appreciated.
10	Alternative energy should only be allowed where appropriate eg no solar fields, no wind farms, biomass processing is an industrial process, should be confined to industrial sites. The energy solution for the UK lies in diversified sources. Nuclear power should be the base. Everything else is complementary.
11	We are luck to live in this lovely area – what do we want to change it for! Some more land is needed for parking outside the village hall in order not to block the road. There are a few houses for rent and more for sale so no need to build more and <u>please no developers!!!</u> or social housing. The crime rate is low here we want to keep it that way!!
12	The word “minimum” should have been included in the preamble to Q1. The word “stipulate” in the preamble to Q1 is misleading it should have said “suggest”. To maintain the character of Little Birch it is essential that any building should be <u>single</u> dwellings well dispersed in the northern part of the parish. New buildings should be for local use as far as possible.
17	This is a delightful rural area and should be kept as such within reason. What we should not be looking for is to become an adjunct to Hereford.
19	Whilst I think that large wind turbines would not be appropriate in such a beautiful environment I do wonder whether or not there is a place for smaller and more discrete domestic turbines.
24	Could we please revert to smaller buses to go round the village. The long buses being used are most unsuitable.
25	There are several, at least three buildings built initially as garages then converted to accommodation. Why not be clear from the outset the intention of these buildings? Rather than going through the pantomime of building a two storey garage with patio windows to then convert into living accommodation.
26	I am not horsey – but it should be recognised that Little Birch and Aconbury are equestrian communities. Light pollution is very bad compared to, for example, Goodrich.
30	More tree plantations. Less paved areas and less hedge removals. Less urbanisation in general Smaller buses (most usually no passengers!)

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
	Shop incorporated in pub – may help it to survive!
31	The woods and lanes are a wonderful local resource and well maintained for access and leisure.
33	Before the 'Core Strategy' Aconbury was a parish in which no development could take place. Similarly Little Birch was not a sustainable parish and housing had to have a need. Nothing has changed simply by introducing the 'Core Strategy' and neither parish could be considered SUSTAINBLE. Aconbury does not have a centre. Any new development must be on an individual basis and the style and size of housing should be sympathetic to a rural outlook. No street lighting, no unnecessary road markings and no pavements are what defines a rural environment.
34	The character of Little Birch and Aconbury is of a settlement that has grown organically. Buildings are interspersed with green spaces in a relaxed sort of way and this should be preserved. The newly-adopted Core Strategy makes the point that future development must be respectful and sympathetic to the context in which it occurs. It would be very sad if the implementation of it (and meeting the highly questionable housing targets) led to undifferentiated suburban sprawl. There is no need to build outside the visually contained areas of the existing settlement.
37	Maintaining the rural nature of the area is of prime importance. The people who live in Aconbury and Little Birch have chosen to do so because they appreciate the countryside and having green space around them whilst also having the advantages of being near Hereford and Ross. There is a real danger of it becoming a suburban sprawl if too much new building is allowed, thus ruining the character and the quality of life.
45	Whereas I have ticked wind turbines and solar power, I think these should be of a small scale and limited to individual dwellings or at most two or three.
49	Litter picking and any rubbish dumped in layby's need to be addressed. Cutting of hedges and trees along the sides of roads would improve views and vistas. As the grass verges are not being cut, at least scatter wild flower seeds which will then flower and seed themselves for years to come which would provide a food source for bees and insects. This is done in Wales and has been very successful.
50	We need to cut down the speed that cars go. I live in fear of a crash on the main Ross road. I moved here in Jan 2016 and there has been 5 major crashes on Ross road.
51	An area designated as a village green to provide a focus for leisure/social activities. Community power generation – installation of windmill, solar panels for local community etc.
59	Wind turbines and housing development should be encouraged to ensure the village doesn't get left behind.
61	Any kind of development should be looked at with an open mind.
66	Encourage smallholdings/local farms rather than big farms.
82	Housing development should be encouraged particularly Passive houses and eco-friendly builds. Helping reduce use of oil and gas heating systems. Signage for dog walkers to clean up after their dogs around woods.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
85	<p>People who live in the countryside do so to enjoy an outdoors life. To maintain and enhance this the plan should focus on the areas main strengths which are Aconbury Hill, Wallbrook Wood, Nether Round Hill and Athelstan's Woods. Work with the landowners to make sure the people of these parish continue to enjoy and benefit from them.</p> <p>New build's will always be a challenge due to the natural geography of the area but provision to encourage families to the area would benefit a sense of "community". Village life always revolves around a pub, church and hall so all should be supported.</p> <p>The roads in some areas are dangerous especially Little Birch/Parish lane.</p> <p>A small playgroup on the village field?</p> <p>Parking at village hall also needs investment.</p>
100	Local environment does not really need improvement. Need to make sure that new, necessary, development does not spoil what we have.
117	<p>One or two land owners seem to abuse the general approach of people to their village. What can possibly cause car dumping; parking on green verges? even driving over them!!; unused, but readily usable homes?; apparently unregulated horseyculture? truly ugly; and unusable footpaths?</p> <p>We don't want the suburbanisation of Little Birch, but a few aspects of this lovely village could be improved, for very little cost.</p>
129	Dogs are rarely kept on leads and dog mess left on verges that are cut. Also dogs off leads in the woods. Keep hedges of a length where they don't obstruct views.
130	The most sustainable energy is energy which is not used. The focus should be on reducing the energy demand, by making new development as efficient as possible (Passivhaus or AECB silver/gold standards). Burning trees to produce energy doesn't make a lot of sense (on larger scale).
132	Cut hedges yearly to preserve views.
142	Important to conserve historical hill fort, and biodiversity of woodlands, and open countryside.
144	Keep as many hedges and trees as possible. Encourage wild flowers for bee/insect use. Encourage organic market gardening, farming etc.
151	More needs to be done to protect and improve the wonderful views which the village position can provide for residents. For example, the once excellent views from the former Methodist Chapel across to the Forest of Dean plateau could be greatly enhanced by suitable hedge reduction.
152	Need to get young families into area. Houses together. Church, shop, school, restaurant/pub.
161	Complaints that wind turbines are an eyesore are a rural excuse to not limit pollution, it is a much larger problem than damage caused to our views. Wind turbines should be fairly backed when given criticism. To argue their case: they are feats of engineering; they are great displays of progression and modernity; they display and promote the development of a healthy and environmentally aware and caring community.
162	Village 'pond' could be cleared.
166	Look after the farmland as it is a source of local produce in a competitive market. Solar panels would be useful as a way of being sustainable for the future. Saving

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
	local woodland such as Aconbury woods is important! We have a rich variety of nature, which has to be preserved. Our local environment is important for sustainability not industrial sites. It would damage the community.
167	Keeping farmland for local produce is important. The woods and pathways are good for exercise, health and preserving wildlife.
171	New houses are fantastic but more needs to be done to ensure this is done via infill only and <u>not</u> on agricultural land. Any new builds/conversions need to be more sympathetic – this is <u>not</u> being done now. No further garage/workshop conversions!!! More signage is required around Little Birch to support local businesses and label roads. Road maintenance would be nice for a change. The derelict houses in the area – more needs to be done to <u>force</u> the owners to repair/maintain and turn into habitable homes.
172	Yes. Please leave the environment as it is. Once the UK is out of the European Union, it will need every square inch of its farmland to feed its reducing population, which will inevitably reduce and negate the need for more housebuilding. <u>Also</u> , once the postwar “baby boomers” die, the population will drop. As most Little Birch residents are elderly people living a quiet life this means less housing need.
178	We should have an open mind on renewable energy and encourage new ideas to protect our environment.
180	Ditches residing along a persons property should be said persons responsibility, clean, unblock and maintain, if they do not want to do it, charge them a small fee either through a company or fine.
183	Wind turbines would not be viable in this area. The local woodland and areas around should be well preserved as it is home to a number of rare plant species. Athelstan in particular and ecosystems for wildlife.
A	Firstly, let’s not underestimate the rustic appeal of Little Birch. Certainly many of the hedgerows could do with a trim more often but this is also one of the attractions of the area and certainly one that attracted us originally. Simply building for the sake of it unless there is consideration regarding the individuals/families/etc that are going to move to the properties would be poor planning in my opinion. For example, working from home, whilst being a worthy objective also requires the necessary infrastructure ‘backup’. These infrastructure improvements can only be funded from the outside and it is unlikely that the County Council or Openreach etc would be inclined to do so.

We've tried to cover what we think are the main issues in this questionnaire, but if we've missed anything you think should be included, please tell us below.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
5	As custodians for the future, the current generation have a major responsibility to put a judicious plan in place to protect this beautiful ancient, rural village.
11	It would be very nice to have a local vet (lacking since our vet in Much Birch retired). Most people round the village have pets and they need to be treated from time to time – difficult when you get too old or infirm to drive.
12	Mention should be made of the need for external services to be increased to cope with increased population of Little Birch and elsewhere in the county. This is especially important for hospital capacity and services. No major development should be allowed to proceed until this is planned and financed.
17	New housing should not be contemplated where the road would be unable to cope with serious two-way traffic. It should also be near a bus stop so that children going to school in Hereford can easily walk to it, thereby saving the use of the car. It appears that walking is almost a pastime of the 60's and earlier!!
19	For this area to remain viable we not only need to preserve agricultural and forestry employment but also to establish the facilities to enable home working and service provision at a distance. This will only be achieved by having reliable fast fibre broadband and good universal mobile phone coverage. I don't expect that Openreach and the mobile companies will agree to provide these services, however!
25	Roads/verges/pavements appear to conflict. The construction of fixed pavements makes it difficult for cars to pass – the pavements then dwindle to nothing (bottom of The Thorn) which makes it self-defeating and inconvenient. There is no pavement on Barrack Hill which seems to work both for traffic and pedestrians. Building pavements gives rural areas suburban effect whereas country dwellers are used to neither pavements or street lights and stand on the verges for traffic to pass. Dislike the urbanisation of the rural community which is also reducing wildlife habitat. Believe flora and fauna essential for the rural environment which farmland cannot be relied upon to provide as this is utilised for food production.
26	Reducing light pollution.
31	We are planning for a future none of us can imagine. However we have a crisis in housing with the cost of housing rising beyond the means of many people. The population is rising. Development providing a choice of housing to all demographic/economic groups is desirable. Local services and employment reduce our carbon footprint. Local green energy providers help reduce our carbon footprint and protect us from national energy shortages. The loss of a shop/post office in the village requires us all to travel further and reduces social contacts. Good luck with this plan. I hope it is guided with the values of openness and inclusiveness.
33	Additional sites for new housing in Little Birch could be: Little Birch Road towards Little Birch Church, Sunnybank Cottage to 'Withycombe', an area across from the

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
	<p>'Old School House', beyond the 'Old Rectory' towards Athelstan's Wood. Housing in these areas would avoid too much additional developing where there are already enough housing.</p> <p>Herefordshire is a very rural county attracting tourists searching for a break in the countryside. Aconbury and Little Birch have no sustainability – even if you call them 'settlements'. Simply allowing new applications where none would have been allowed before is not the way to preserve this beautiful county. The need for additional dwellings cannot and should not be applied throughout all parishes. I hope this development plan will provide the answer to limiting the damage to our environment.</p>
34	<p>In terms of new housing/development the question of style might be addressed. Too often planners take the need to 'fit in with the existing' as limiting new designs to the form of 'dormer bungalows'. A more imaginative approach should be encouraged where certainly scale and materiality should be respected, but maybe in a new way. Low energy and sustainable building can express itself in a number of exciting forms that, if done well, can make a valid contribution in the rural context. Much more information should be required at planning stage about the proposed landscape context and views.</p> <p>The lack of mains drainage and the subsequent pollution of the Wrigglesbrook has been a factor over many years that has limited development. The effect on local water courses of new housing must be addressed.</p>
37	<p>I hope that the neighbourhood will continue to attract families who will put down roots and take ownership of the area. People who want to be part of a small rural community and who want their children to grow up with a real appreciation for nature and the countryside – whilst also enjoying the benefits of being near good schools and services. Existing housing in the area is on the whole discreet and surrounded by gardens, trees and hedges. It would be a good idea if applications for future buildings also submitted a plan for landscaping and tree planting as part of their proposal.</p>
38	<p>I have no problem with planning in the Little Birch/Aconbury area, but I would like to point out the following. I applied for planning on my land so as my mother who is now 70 yrs old could come and live by me (I lost my Dad 10 yrs ago). The ground that my house stands on belonged to my great grandmother and it has been handed down over the years from her to my gran and grandad, my father who gave it to me after my grandmother died at the age of 96 and I had a new house build so as you can see my father lived in the area most of his life, and my mother lived in Aconbury from when she was 5 yrs old, they were married in Aconbury church and I was also christened there. The reason for me telling you this is I find it very ironic that the only thing I could have for my mother was a Log Cabin (which she called a shed) and this would have to be removed after her death, I was not going to degrade her like this as she has worked all her life and cared for my Dad in the later years when he was not able to work so therefore I would not ask her to leave a brick built house for my dad but I would have liked to be given the opportunity to repay them for what they have given me, fortunately my mother is in good health and I hope this continues. I know this has nothing to do with your area of concern, but I hope you take the time to read this and comment if you wish.</p>

Little Birch and Aconbury NDP · Questionnaire comment listings

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
45	There are two views which I think are special and should be preserved: Approaching Aconbury from Hereford on the Hoarwithy Road the view opens up to include the church, the hill and the woods – very special. On the same road but approaching Aconbury from Caldicot crossroads – an open view of woods and fields and far hills.
46	Not enough information about either the existing ‘plan’ or how the new one really works. Far too many loaded questions with limited selection of responses. Meaning of many questions unclear. Seems a very expensive method of achieving very little.
51	We would benefit from a local shop and post office – this would be a good way to stimulate the local economy and provide jobs. Regular opportunities to recycle waste – hire of skips for the community to use.
53	Living outside the city of Hereford has many positives. The bigger picture is sorting out transport in and out of the city, parking in general and at the hospital. Unless the council sort some of these issues out, living out here in Little Birch could prove to be an issue. I would like to see all the parish councils putting pressure to utilise the old railway lines to create a super efficient park and ride scheme that makes it easy for commuters etc to get in and out of the city.
82	I feel 18 houses in 15 years is too few to meet the shortfall of affordable houses in Herefordshire considering the size of Little Birch and Aconbury.
88	Stop local builders etc from being on the parish council for their own gain and not the parishes.
97	Maybe to remember “if it works don’t fix it”. These two parishes are pretty good places to live – please don’t change too much as there would be a danger of losing the good things we have.
100	New dwellings should be built in traditional style and materials eg stone, render or wood covered wall or ‘border oak style’ – not brick. Roof should be slate or traditional pantile – not clay tiles. Windows should not be ‘picture’ style ie <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 20px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> x <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="font-size: 2em;">✓</div> </div> Dwellings were built in the 1960s and 1970s in a style which should not be repeated.
117	It is often the case that minor elements get overlooked in the broader sweep of neighbourhood planning, eg “ <u>Slow</u> ” signs on narrow roads; <u>stiles</u> , often in dangerous condition; <u>dog-poo bins</u> – are there any?; <u>damaged salt bins</u> – poisoning the ground; <u>‘street’ names</u> – the number of times we are asked to direct delivery vans to their destination is substantial, especially as satnav is not totally accurate. What a waste of time, fuel and unnecessary turning! A little more <u>reflection</u> on the part of developers, large and small, might avoid some recent friction. How would <u>they</u> like the loss of view or the replacement of greenery by tarmac? The plan should highlight the need to respect those elements that make the village a functioning whole. It is not good enough to say that I can do what I like in my own garden, especially if it involves inappropriate building work that blights the immediate area.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
118	[Asterisk note to Q16] Although we have not been flooded recently, the road run off into the drain causes silt/grit to build up in the stream bed and sometimes blockages, after heavy rain. More measures to encourage farmers to stop ploughing on steep fields would help.
122	Speed limit to 40 mph on Kingsthor Road. Better public transport. Allow more infill building. Joint parish community centre at school. We need a park, playground, post office and pub. Village hall could have been the “new heart” for the community but I’m afraid the old crustys got there way and now the village in dying. It would be nice to see more dynamic people on the parish council, its just a shame most normal people are working and are just to busy to contribute.
124	We were refused planning for a new dwelling in our garden on the grounds that the area was not in a defined settlement area therefore classified as ‘open countryside’. Due to the spread out nature of Aconbury and Little Birch and the numerous clusters of dwellings and lack of defined settlement boundary for new dwellings I would like to see a more flexible approach to planning criteria in our area. If a proposed new dwelling is within reasonable walking distance to the bus route, is next to other dwellings and in keeping with character permission should be granted not seen as in ‘open countryside’.
127	Whenever possible unused land should be utilised rather than agricultural land. I would rather adhoc development so that the area stays rural. Don’t want to see everything pushed to one corner of the parish. Whenever possible add 1 or 2 new properties to existing clusters. Keep hedges cut to retain views.
128	More houses are needed in the village, ideally with outside space so they are not built on top of each other. The village could do with more life in it, houses to bring younger people in a post office/shop and the pub to stay open. Keep hedges cut back so that views can be preserved.
130	It’s worrying how many outline planning applications for new houses have been registered in the last 12 months. Very often there’s been no or little detail of proposed design. I’d like to see new housing that is well considered and designed, that respects and responds to existing local vernacular and is super energy efficient. For example, building to Passivhaus standards would pretty much eliminate fuel poverty in new housing – these kinds of developments achieve up to 90% reduction in heating demand compared to basic building regulations standard.
132	Whenever possible add 1 or 2 new properties to existing clusters.
141	I currently farm in Aconbury and think it is very important to support diversification in the farming community as farming alone is very difficult to support a family within such a turbulent industry. Rural tourism should be supported as we have such beautiful landscapes and villages to share with others. My closest bus stop is on the side of the A49 – Aconbury turn off. I do not feel safe walking with my 4 year old child down the side of the road to catch a bus. I

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
	think the practicality and safety around bus stops could be looked at to ensure that rurally isolated people can access public services.
144	<p>Q1 and Q3: this should depend entirely on the site and need (not luxury palaces!)</p> <p>Q2: All new building should be 100% sustainably produced to high conservation standards (ie zero carbon producing).</p> <p>Q10: feel strongly that 'small is beautiful' – would not want to see industrial estates etc.</p> <p>Would like to see maximum encouragement for localisation and community AND sustainability and conservation – whilst keeping an open mind to innovative schemes, private or community driven (and debate each on its own merits).</p> <p>Most important would be a village shop/post office as a hub/centre/focus for this village. It feels a bit sprawling at present.</p>
151	<p>I wish the Steering Group for the Neighbourhood Plan all the best for the challenging task it faces. I think the main issues are covered by this questionnaire.</p> <p>I think the main task over the next 15 years will be to preserve and maintain the unique rural character of the village of Little Birch.</p>
161	Light pollution should be encouraged to be reduced to help protect the environment. Broadband must be improved in order to bring modernity to the community. Many more jobs now involve online work, if not depend on it. This aspect is equally important in education as education methods are shifting with technology in places such as the local primary school. In secondary schools, many homework assignments are also technology/broadband dependent, for example research tasks.
166	Building houses for the future to a certain degree is important, however rural areas cannot be exploited simply for Council planning. Expanding built up areas is understandable, but not simply building houses in remote areas where people value a standard of living. What makes this community so effective is its good access to the city, the availability of walking and an area for local farmers, and pubs to capitalise on a close community. As soon as we start to invite production and businesses we lose the tranquillity which people are found of. It would be good to have a local post office and café as it would save people having to travel afar. The most important thing is protecting what we have and ensuring we maintain the local green areas.
167	New houses are important however in the right places. We need our countryside, woodlands farmland as well. Already built up areas should be extended leaving those who live in the countryside to enjoy the surrounding countryside and woodland. Broadband needs to be maintained so people can work from home. Public transport and park and ride should also be considered, cutting the volume of traffic. Bringing business units, housing association properties to rural places does not make sense. Pub, post office, shop, village halls are all key to keeping a happy community in the rural lifestyle they enjoy. Wildlife also has to be factored in.
168	Planning approval should not be given out of village envelope such as recent development on Wrigglebrook Lane.

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
171	More needs to be done to encourage businesses into the area – such as creation of live work units, <u>small</u> commercial units. Please improve road markings and signs. Why don't we make more of our existing attractions? The Castle Inn should receive more support from the Parish Council. More focus should be put on building one/two bed properties rather than bigger family homes as presently the young people who grew up in the village cannot afford to stay here. More leisure industry would be a great thing.
172	Building new homes should <u>not</u> be used as a means for landowners to make <u>a profit for themselves at the expense of ruining the countryside</u> . Most landowners wishing to sell and develop land <u>already</u> have a home and usually have little respect for the fragile natural environment and others' peace within the village. There are plenty of brownfield sites in nearby towns for development. Once a natural habitat has been concreted over it will be gone for ever!
179	I moved to Little Birch just over 2 years ago with the intent of a quiet place to live in the countryside. This has been very satisfactory to date. I own a modest amount of land and feel that landowners should be free to use, develop, improve and enjoy their land as they see fit. That said, these activities should not interfere with the area as a whole or relevant individuals. Therefore a moderate NDP is more preferable than a highly restrictive one. Mobile reception and broadband internet is very poor (even with FTTC (marketed as BT Infinity)). Q19 is bad. You do not specify the scale – no objection to solar panels on roofing, GSHP heating or biomass etc. Large scale wind probably not viable here. A nuclear plant in Rotherwas would be welcome employment!
180	More local amenities. More opportunities for younger people. I don't want to see this place wither and die because new people and younger people cannot afford it here, and wouldn't want to be here because there is nothing.
183	I would hate to see any large housing estates built in the local surrounding fields. 1-2 family homes with good garden space not an issue but developments like Tump Lane and Much Dewchurch would be an awful shame for the community as I feel it would be lost within too many people, traffic etc.
189	I would like to see more facilities for children and young people in the village including a play ground and possibly youth club/football pitch. Also for the village to have a post office/shop again in the future would be fantastic.
A	The term 'affordable housing' is widely used but rarely defined. Many properties locally are priced above what I feel could be considered 'affordable housing' . More can be done though to reduce housing costs but whether this would be acceptable to the planning authorities is debatable. So whilst the County Council may feel the area should or must accept additional housing, it would be preferable if they indicated exactly what they were after.
B	I welcome the opportunity for residents to have a say in the neighbourhood plan through the questionnaire, and was pleased with the scope of the questions. I believe that for a village to be healthy and sustainable in needs a broad base in terms of the types of residents, and their activities. And I also believe that the

Questionnaire Ref	Comment
-------------------	---------

planning process can be used to facilitate and encourage the development of the village towards the goals that the community desires.

From my point of view and as a resident of well over 20 years, I would identify a number of key factors which I would like to see addressed.

- Having brought up three children in the community, I would identify the difficulty in young people who have grown up in the community from being able to live here due to the unavailability of suitable types of housing. This means a proportion of affordable housing, and also more housing suitable for families.
- I believe that we should encourage business activities within the village perhaps through rural offices and workshops. I would like to see more residents actually working in the community.
- We should embrace sustainability in construction, and I believe that the planning process should be used to encourage the highest standards to reduce our dependency on carbon, both in materials and the energy required during the life of the buildings. I would like to see a sustainability statement included with every application.
- I would like the village to be able to support a small shop and a pub.
- Little Birch is a rather disparate village, with the church, pub and village hall some distance from one another. I believe that we should attempt to create a focal point in the village with future services and amenities focussed in a location which should be identified. Over time I think we can create a 'village heart'.
- I would like to see an outdoor community space which could be used for events and sporting activities eg tennis court. But I am not sure where!