



## **CONSULTATION SUMMARY**

Plaistow & Ifold Parish Council undertook a local consultation amongst residents of Durfold Wood, Ifold, Plaistow and Shillinglee during the first three weeks of June this year to gather feedback from residents and those who use the services and facilities, such as the playpark and schools.

Why was this done? The Parish Council has the ability to spend some of the council tax money collected by Chichester District Council – the Precept – on local activities and issues that matter locally. The consultation was to help identify where to spend this money and the priorities for services & facilities required as the focus for our community.

Feedback was gathered on a number of topics including:

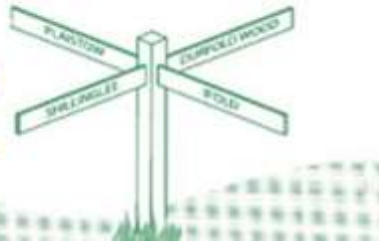
- Roads, speed and traffic
- Recreation and usage of existing and potential facilities
- Cycling in the Parish
- School and local bus services
- Potential new community facilities
- Pathways and bridleways maintenance
- Other factors for the P&I Parish Council to consider

The survey was largely undertaken online, and a total of 134 responses were received. As well as responding to specific questions, there was also the opportunity for residents to give open views, and cover issues that were specifically relevant to them as an individual.

A full summary report on the consultation will be made available on the website.

### **Who answered the survey?**

Respondents were 42% male and 56% female with 2% not identifying. The age split was balanced with 42% being under 56, and 57% over. The majority of respondents - around 80% - did not have children in their household, but of those who did and had children aged 5 to 11, 67% attend the Plaistow & Kirdford Primary School. Responses were geographically well represented with 51% from Ifold, 31% from Plaistow, 9% from Kirdford, and the remaining 10% split between Durfold Wood, Shillinglee and elsewhere.



### Transport & Local Bus Services

There was significant interest in the topic of transport with relatively high levels of dissatisfaction with the state of public operated roads and pot-holes in Ifold (36% not at all satisfied), Plaistow Village (44%), Durfold Wood (32%), and Shillinglee (18%).

Speed of traffic locally was also an issue – with respondents not at all satisfied with speed in Ifold (22%) and Plaistow Village (22%) – but it was much less of a concern in Shillinglee (7%) and Durfold Wood (12%). However, road signage was considered good in all areas, with 47% satisfied or very satisfied in Ifold, 41% in Plaistow Village, whereas in Durfold Wood 55% of all respondents did not know about the road signage and this figure was 47% for Shillinglee.

There were lots of comments about traffic in the area, including speed and congestion around the school in Plaistow Village, topics as varied as a requirement for a one-way system around the village, parking availability, and throughout the Parish concerns about visibility being compromised when turning onto the local main roads being obscured by vegetation. This information can be fed by to The Highways Agency.

With respect to the community response to proposals such as extending the 30mph zone 200 yards along Rickmans Lane in Plaistow, 64% of respondents were totally supportive of the proposal; and in terms of looking at reducing speed limits around the school and pre-school in Plaistow Village to 20mph, 78% of respondents were supportive. As well there been high levels of agreement for better signage stating warning as roads being unsuitable for large vehicles down Loxwood Road (64% being very supportive), to additional school safety road signage (56%) and establishing a crossing area by the Church and The Sun (50% very supportive or supportive). There was a split of support on whether there should be a one way traffic flow in Plaistow Village.

When asked about the local bus service – excluding the school bus network – for travelling in and outside of the Parish then usage is low with only 9% using it frequently or occasionally and 91% not using the service provided. Even if bus frequency increased, and there was better or safer bus shelters and access to them, then still between 45% and 60% of respondents would be not at all likely to use the service.



### *Recreation*

The provision of recreation facilities in the Parish was a major topic of interest. Overall over 50% of respondents used the Plaistow Village Green Area, 40% Kelsey Hall, 34% The Lady Hope Playpark, 30% Winterton Hall and a good proportion using other facilities. Overall, only just over a fifth (22%) of those responding did not use any of the local recreational facilities.

The objective of the Consultation was to identify where the local community would like the Parish Council to invest the local Precept expenditure. There was very strong support for the Parish Council investing in Local Community Open Spaces or Wilding Areas (61% were interested or very interested), in provision of litter bins on the community open spaces (72% interested or very interested), and in the provision of seating and benches in the community open spaces (65% interested or very interested).

There was much less support for the provision of Outdoor Gym Equipment (50% not at all interested), Horse tethering facilities in Plaistow or Ifold (63% not at all interested) or bike racks outside Plaistow and Ifold Stores (around 40% not at all interested).

Respondents were also able to give their views on an open basis on what additional facilities should be considered for the local community. There were multiple responses from increasing the wilding and nature and local environment; to investing in new play areas in Ifold; to the establishment of community allotments with bee hives to protect and encourage nature and pollination. There were also requests for practical additions such as more dog-waste bins and public toilets. Details of suggestions will be posted to the Plaistow and Ifold Parish website along with full details of responses to the full survey.

### *Pavilion Use, Cycling, Bridleways and Footpaths*

There were a number of strong opinions on proposed changes and investment in the Plaistow Pavilion on the green including investing in disabled loos – with 47% of respondents supportive of the Parish Council investigating this development.

Cycling within the Parish is at higher levels than the national average with 51% of respondents cycling in the Parish for transport and travel, or recreation and exercise. Those who did not cycle are largely not likely to change their behaviour, although 30% of those who did not cycle would do so if there were slower traffic speeds, and 40% would be likely to cycle if there were improvements to the road surface. These factors – and especially improvements to the road surface (85% of respondents) were the main changes to improve cycle routes within the Parish.

Overall, respondents' attitudes to the maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways had 17% stating they were very poor, and only 5% stating they were very good. The majority of 34% were relatively satisfied.

PLAISTOW  
AND IFOLD  
PARISH COUNCIL



### **In Summary**

The consultation exercise was an important initiative for the Parish Council and the community and has enabled some strong direction and focus on areas to investigate across recreation, transport, cycling, local bus services, and the provision and maintenance of bridleways and footpaths.

We would like to thank all of those who gave their time to support this initiative.

The Parish Council can make a real difference in terms of facilities, traffic & accessibility safety, local services – in simple terms in relation to matters of local importance – but to do this effectively requires the input of our community, and through this consultation, the community has provided some useful and clear direction.