

Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan

Questionnaire analysis.

1. Introduction

The Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire for Ellistown and Battleflat was produced in the spring/summer of 2014. It was hand delivered to every household in the Parish, available to complete electronically and was also promoted through the Parish Council.

In total, 75 responses were received.

2. Summary of findings

Q1 - What do you enjoy/love about living in Ellistown and Battleflat Parish?

A quiet environment (98% very important/important) and easy access to the countryside (95%) were the most popular answers followed by a rural atmosphere (93%) and family/friends/neighbours (85%). Parish activities/community groups (60%) was the least prevalent response.

Other comments included the need for more events and for benches for people to rest on – both promoting interaction between people, which a respondent said was currently lacking..

Q2 – What are the important features of Ellistown and Battleflat Parish?

Open/green spaces (98%); footpaths and opportunities for walking (99%) and countryside separating settlements (97%) were the top answers. The Working Men's Club (38%) and the Cricket Club (33%) were least popular.

Free text comments included comments about the need for more leisure facilities.

Q3 – Are you looking for alternative accommodation in the next 5 years in Ellistown and Battleflat?

30% are, 56% are not.

Q4 – If yes, what type?

A wide range of responses was received from 23 people – the highest responses being 30% wanting accommodation for a couple, 26% requiring family accommodation, 21% wanting single person accommodation and 13% wanting 3 bed homes or higher

Q5 – Do you think the Parish needs any of the following types of housing?

Housing to help young people stay in the area was most prevalent (63%), followed by eco-friendly housing (48%), housing for elderly/disabled people (40%) and housing for young couples (35%) and (48%). Housing for low income families (15%) was least popular. Housing

for single people (17%) was only marginally more popular, despite 21% of respondents stating that they need such accommodation.

Q6 – In terms of the distribution of housing, what priority would you give to the following?

The firm preference here was for small groupings of houses, up to 5 (32% of people marked this as high). Single dwellings across the Parish was the next most popular choice.

In the free text comments, people expressed the view that no further housing was needed, whilst others

Q7 – For any new building development, would you like to see ...

66% of people wanted no more housing, but a strong preference amongst the others (21%) was for development within the built up area of the Parish.

Q8 – Please name any places you feel that building could take place and the type of buildings you would like to see

The old pub site was a popular choice for new housing/businesses, whilst a number also stated the need for a new pub/restaurant. Other businesses people expressed a desire for included a chemist; butchers, bakery, although another comment said that 2 shops were sufficient. The South St playing field was highlighted by two respondents as a suitable place for housing, and the former Fosters factory on Kendal Road was seen as being prime for redevelopment. The need for a new community facility carried weight.

Q9 – Do you think there is a need for more business/employment land in the Parish?

74% said no – the free text comments stating that there are factory units that are empty so why build more?

Q10 – Renewable energy

People were overwhelmingly in favour of renewable energy being incorporated into new housing (93%).

Q11 – Would you like to see wind turbines in the Parish?

People were in favour of this by 54% to 46%.

Q12 – If you are concerned about further development, please give your reason.

Loss of green spaces and roads/parking (both with 85%) came top, with loss of character pressure on facilities (both 64%) next, with flooding/drainage concerns last (44%).

Some free text comments highlighted an impact on pollution, safety issues and a potential loss of community spirit.

Q13 – Please list the important areas of Ellistown and Battleflat to be protected.

Public footpaths and green areas were highly regarded, both within and outside of the built up area. The green corridor separating off the industrial areas was particularly important.

In terms of the buildings – the Church was featured most heavily with the School, a developed pub and shops also highlighted.

Q14 – To what extent does any of the following cause you concern within Ellistown and Battleflat Parish?

Dog fouling came top of what causes great concern with 72% of respondents. Car parking was next (64%) followed by litter (52%), pollution (44%), roads (43%), home design (33%) and finally crime (13%).

In the free text comments, traffic related issues (speeding, parking, lorries) were most prevalent.

Q15 – what would you like to see improved?

Free text comments included more comments about the roads and the need for a range of measures including traffic calming/yellow lines/parking enforcement etc., but a number also highlighted the need for more community events and the benefit of having a new community facility. The need for seating; problems with litter and dog fouling and the need to protect the green spaces also featured.

Q16 – What facilities and services are lacking in Ellistown and Battleflat?

Medical facilities were mentioned, as was better resources for young people, a pub, more regular bus service, safe play areas for children, public notice boards and road sweeping.

Q17 – What services/facilities are underused in Ellistown and Battleflat?

Responses included Church rooms, green spaces, South St playing field, shops and pub.

Q18 – What new facilities would you like?

The need for a modern community facility was highlighted alongside a GP surgery, sporting facilities for children, small, independent shops (like Ibstock), public transport to the supermarkets, exercise classes, café.

Q19 – How well do you think Ellistown and Battleflat is served with educational facilities?

People were happy with the Primary (66%) and Secondary (42%) education, with a large number of respondents (over 50% in relation to secondary education, answering 'don't know'). A similarly high level of people not knowing impacted on preschool groups, with Pre-school activities being deemed 'excellent' or 'good' by a high percentage of those responding (over 80%).

Concern was expressed in the free text comments about the impact new housing would have on the Primary School capacity.

Q20 – How well do you think Ellistown and Battleflat is served with the following?

People felt that social, community and educational facilities were poor (41%) whilst a small number of respondents (5 of 19) thought that disability/care support was provided very well or quite well.

Q21 – Do you use the bus service?

43% do.

Q22 – If yes – how do you rate it?

Respondents were very happy with the route (73%) and timetable (58%), but unhappy about the cost (26%). 13 of 19 respondents who expressed a view said that access for those with disabilities was either excellent or good.

Q23 – Would you like to have a community transport facility?

57% said yes.

Q24 – What are your views about the quality of street lighting?

82% were happy with the street lighting. Views were mixed about them being switched off late at night. Kendal Road was seen as being quite poor, and concern was expressed about the brightness of the street lighting on the industrial estates.

Q25 – Mobile phone reception.

The level of coverage (56% excellent or good) and quality of signal (61%) is generally regarded as good with a wide range of service providers in evidence.

Q26 – Do you have broadband internet for your home/business?

Overwhelmingly people do. 87% of respondents have it.

Q27 – If so, how do you rate the following?

Speed (76% good or excellent) and reliability fine (79% good or excellent).

Q28 – Do you operate a business in Ellistown and Battleflat?

94% do not.

Q29 – If yes, what?

3 responses – building firm, financial services home based and p/t accounts/book keeper.

Q30 – Is there any support the Parish could provide your business?

Responses included the Parish Council encouraging quotes from local builders, and promoting local businesses.

Q31 – Would you welcome more businesses to the Parish?

64% said yes.

Q32 – What type of businesses would you welcome to the Parish?

Range supplied – ones providing jobs for local people that don't pollute; solicitor; non industrial; hairdressers; supermarket; restaurant; pharmacy; butchers gym club.

Q33 – What type of employment opportunities would you like to see brought to the Parish?

A number of respondents stated the need for jobs for younger people.