



**Bishops Lydeard  
&  
Cothelstone  
Neighbourhood Plan**

# Questionnaire 2013

## **WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Neighbourhood planning is a new right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. For the first time, local people will have a major say in helping to shape development in the areas in which they live.

Neighbourhood planning empowers communities to shape the development and growth of a local area through the production of a neighbourhood plan that will become part of the local statutory development plan and will form the basis for determining planning applications in that area.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of an area. It may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. All Neighbourhood Plans must meet Basic Conditions, which are described later in this guide.

Neighbourhood plans relate to the use and development of land and associated social, economic and environmental issues. It may deal with a wide range of issues (like housing, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues that are of particular importance in a local area.

## **WHY IS THIS DIFFERENT TO OTHER PLANS?**

A Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to examination and referendum and then form part of the Local Development Plan. This statutory status gives Neighbourhood Plans far more weight than some other local planning documents, such as parish plans, community plans and village design statements.

Whilst those documents provided an important viewpoint on how a community saw itself and how to respond to future development pressures and opportunities, they were often outweighed by other guidance or reports in either the strategic planning for the Borough e.g. in the creation of the Core Strategy or in the assessment of planning applications on a day to day basis.

Neighbourhood Plans can carry substantial weight in the decision making process and can be used to secure necessary development for an area or resist inappropriate schemes. The weight applied to the Plan in the determination of a planning application or the creation of a strategy document will be influenced by how many people get involved and ultimately vote for the new policies and direction of the plan.

This is where you can help.

# BISHOPS LYDEARD & COTHELSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Dear Resident

The Neighbourhood Plan is an opportunity for local residents to influence what happens in the Parish over the next twenty years. A Working Group has been formed with the Village Council and local residents.

Neighbourhood Plans will form part of the statutory Taunton Deane Plan if it conforms to two main principles:

- It must reflect the views of the community and,
- It must also conform to the adopted policies in the Taunton Deane Plan.

Before the Plan can be adopted by the District Council, it will go before an independent Inspector and be subject to a referendum in the Parish where, under the current regulations of the Localism Bill, more than 50% of those voting must be in favour of the Plan for it to be implemented. You can see from this just how important it is you make your views known in this questionnaire so that this can be reflected in the final document.

The Plan will set out a vision as to what the community will be like to live and work in over the next twenty years and, hopefully, how that vision can be achieved. The Plan will set out “sustainable” policies for the use of land in the Parish both with regard to conservation and future needs of the community. This work should result in a robust Neighbourhood Plan that will be considered as a material consideration in any future decisions involving planning applications and infrastructure and economic/housing development.

Please fill out one questionnaire in consultation with your household and return it in the envelope provide within 21 days of delivery

Your input into the Plan really is essential in providing evidence of the views of residents.

## STAGES IN THE PREPARATION OF THE PLAN

### 1. Identifying the Neighbourhood Area and the Designated Body

Submission of the proposed neighbourhood area has been made to the Local Planning Authority (TDBC) for designation. TDBC have now confirmed the Parish Council is the designated body for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan for the community.

### 2. Duty to Support

Now the Parish Council have been established as the designated body for the community, the Borough Council have a duty to support the Council in completing its Plan

### 3. Building the Evidence Base

It is important that Neighbourhood Plans are based on robust information and analysis of the local area; this is called the evidence base. This work is currently ongoing.

### 4. Community Engagement

The publication of this questionnaire is the first step in the community engagement process. The more people who respond the better engagement with the community will take place and, in turn, the policies are more likely to be based on robust findings and less exposed to challenge.

### 5. Writing the Plan

This stage involves the writing of the Plan based on the evidence basis and the community engagement.

### 6. Submission of the Plan and Inspection

Before the Plan can be used effectively, it will be exposed to scrutiny through the form of an independent inspection by the Planning Inspectorate who review all Plans across the Country. If the Plan passes scrutiny through the inspection, it can then be adopted by TDBC.

### 7. Use the Plan

Once adopted, the Plan can be used to determine planning applications. It can also be used to draw in positive development that will help the formation of the village as an important community facility.

# BISHOPS LYDEARD & COTHELSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## QUESTIONNAIRE – 2013

If you need any help completing the questionnaire, members of the Neighbourhood Planning team can assist. Their contact details are provided at the end of the questionnaire.

### ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

1. Please enter your Post Code. ....  
(Only for security purposes to ensure comments are from the Parish area.)

2. Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group

Under 18 .....  
18–24 .....  
25–44 .....  
45–59 .....  
60–75 .....  
Over 75 .....

3. How did you come to live in The Parish? (Please tick all that apply)

Born here/came with family   
Work in area   
Commutability   
Relatives living nearby   
Love of the countryside   
Retirement   
Facilities   
Other .....

### EMPLOYMENT

4. How many members of your household work in the following areas?

Bishops Lydeard

- Cothelstone
- Taunton
- Williton
- Minehead
- Bridgwater
- Wellington
- Other (within 5 miles)
- Other (over 5 miles)

5. Should the Neighbourhood Plan encourage business/commercial development that provides local employment?  
(Please tick the one you agree with)
- YES   
NO
6. If yes, please tick your preferences
- Expansion of existing businesses   
 Clustering near existing businesses   
 Brownfield sites (e.g. previously developed)   
 Greenfield sites

## HOUSING

### Housing Need

7. Is there anyone in your household currently, or in the near future, in need of alternative accommodation?
- YES   
NO
8. If yes, where does this person need to move to?
- Another dwelling in Bishops Lydeard or Cothelstone Parish   
 Elsewhere in Taunton Deane Borough   
 Elsewhere in Somerset   
 Other .....
9. If in the Parish, which type of accommodation would be required?  
(Please tick all that apply)
- House 2Bed  3 Bed  4 Bed   
 Bungalow 2 Bed  3 Bed   
 Flat 1 Bed  2 Bed   
 other please state.....
10. What type of housing would you like to see built in the Parish?  
(Please tick your preferences)



- Affordable Housing for local people to rent. (e.g. from a Housing Association or the Council)
- Affordable Housing for local people to buy. (Shared Ownership or discounted sale)
- Private Housing for sale at market values.
- Homes suitable for retirement. e.g. bungalows
- Other (Please specify) .....

### Future Housing Provision

*Taunton Deane, in their planning documents, state that Bishops Lydeard can be allocated up to 200 net additional dwellings over the next 16 years.*

If future housing development within the Parish were required, where should this be sited?

The following developable sites, have been identified on the Taunton Deane Consultation website. These sites can be viewed at:

<http://consultidf.tauntondeane.gov.uk/portal/sadmpp/siteallocations?pointId=1358952429684#section-1358952429684>

(Please tick if you have a preferred site for the houses)

Site No.	Site Name	Site Area	Preference
1	Land off High Street (BL007)	5.2 ha	
2	Delta Rise, High Street (BL008)	0.4 ha	
3	The Barton, Mount Street (BL006)	1.1 ha	
4	Lime Tree Farm (BL011)	0.3 ha	
5	East of Bishops Lydeard (BL003b)	7.3 ha	
6	The Paddock (BL012)	0.4 ha	
7	Taunton Road (BL003a)	8.5 ha	
8	Land off Hithermead (BL013)	4.5 ha	
	None of the above (see below)		

List any other areas you would like to see developed which are not marked on the Plan

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## TRANSPORT

11. Are you living in a household which has access to a vehicle?

YES

NO

12. If yes, how many vehicles are there in your household?

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13. What is your main mode of transport?

(Please tick all that apply)

Car/van

Care share/lift from friend or family

Motorbike

Bicycle

Bus

Taxi

Other

Please give details below

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## LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

14. What is most important to you about living in the Parish?  
(Please tick all that apply)

- The rural environment
- Sense of community
- Shops & services
- Proximity to Taunton
- Accessibility to other villages
- Employment opportunities
- Proximity to friends and family
- Other

Please give details below

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15. What do you think should be done to help protect and enhance the local environment?  
(Please tick all that apply)

- Car sharing
- Crime prevention
- Cycle paths
- Design statements for buildings
- Improved drainage
- Improved public transport
- Improved rights of way (footpaths etc.)
- Promote wildlife areas
- Renewable energy
- Traffic management
- Other .....

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

16. Will your family have need of any of the below in the next five years?

- YES   
NO

17. If yes, please tick all that apply

- Bishops Lydeard Primary School
- Cotford St Luke Primary School
- Bishops Lydeard Children's Centre
- Local Nursery
- Pre-School
- Kingsmead School
- Castle School
- Other .....

## RECREATION

18. If you or any members of your family use the existing recreational facilities in the Parish, please give details below:

- Village Green
- MUGA (5-a-side pitch)
- Infants play equipment
- Bishops Lydeard FC grounds
- Bishops Lydeard Cricket Club
- Other (Please specify) .....

19. Is there a need for more recreational facilities in the Parish?  
YES   
NO

20. If yes, please give details below:  
.....  
.....  
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21. Is there a need for more Youth facilities in the Parish?  
YES   
NO

22. If yes, please give details below:  
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23. How would you like to see Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone develop over the next twenty years?  
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24. Are there any buildings or areas of land that you think should be protected by the Neighbourhood Plan? This can include key facilities you believe are

important to the quality of life in the Parish

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## FACILITIES

Jointly, Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone have a diverse range of facilities and provides services to a number of other smaller Parishes. Unlike many traditional villages though, these facilities are not centered around a core area but spread from the bottom of Cothelstone Hill, through the village and on to Greenway and Station Road.

25. Is there a need for more retail and commercial facilities in the Parish?
- YES
- NO

26. If yes, what shops or other businesses would you like to see that we do not have at present?

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27. What goods are not sold by the Parish's shops that you would wish to buy locally?

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28. What Service providers, if any, are missing from the Parish?

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**THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Contact Details

Cllr. Mike Rigby	
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Chairman: Bishops Lydeard & Cothelstone Neighbourhood Plan Group Tel. Email.	
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