

Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan Responses to January Consultation on Potential Housing Sites

Respondents were presented with information from an assessment of potential housing sites. The suggested sites came from a variety of sources, including previous consultation with the community. Whilst an initial assessment of the sites had been carried out, the Parish Council had not yet decided how many or which of the sites it would support. The response of the community to the consultation would assist in that process.

Respondents were asked to note their preference (FOR, AGAINST or NEUTRAL) for each of 20 sites, giving reasons as appropriate.

The analysis has been based on the 429 responses received up to 17th February 2015.

Of those 429, approximately 150 live to the West of the railway, and 250 to the east of the railway (the remainder did not give addresses, or lived outside the parish).

A number of respondents did not provide answers for all of the sites and some used the questionnaire to object to only one site (generally close to their home address).

Overall (across all sites) there were more responses AGAINST housing development on sites than there were FOR. And more support for small, brownfield sites than for large greenfield sites. The overall percentages were as follows:

No response	9%
FOR	34%
AGAINST	42%
NEUTRAL	15%

Analysis of the FOR Responses

The three sites with the strongest **support** were:

Site number	Site Location	Percentage FOR
3	Station Goods Yard	72%
11	Old telephone exchange	72%
10	National tyre centre	66%

The four sites with the least **support** were:

Site number	Site Location	Percentage FOR
18	Infants school	14%
8	Field opposite Thatched Inn	14%
2	Ham fields	19%
1	Fields opposite Stanford Ave	19%

The remaining sites had between 22% and 50% support

Responses have been analysed separately for West and East of the railway (in fact 8 areas have been coded, but the sample size is too small for some areas). Not surprisingly, there is a strong NIMBY effect, those on the West tend to be more in favour of sites on the East and vice versa. However, this does not affect the choice of top three sites.

It does have some effect on the bottom four sites, as site 9 (Friars Oak Fields) has only 10% support from those West of the railway, but 35% support from those East of the railway. There was a strong turnout from the Shepherds Walk estate with 64 respondents, all recording AGAINST Friars Oak

Fields. Similar results were found for site 8 from those living close to the Thatched Inn, and for sites 1 and 2 from those living to the West of the railway.

Analysis of the AGAINST responses

The analysis shows stronger reactions against sites - and roughly in the inverse order to the FOR analysis.

FOR					AGAINST			
Site	All	West of Railway	East of Railway		Site	All	West of Railway	East of Railway
3	72.0	74.8	71.2		18	74.6	66.0	79.7
11	71.9	76.9	69.3		8	74.5	58.3	85.2
10	66.5	72.4	63.6		2	67.3	84.9	55.5
14	50.0	53.1	48.7		1	66.7	78.4	58.3
17	49.4	46.3	52.7		5	63.3	45.0	75.2
13	47.3	55.0	42.1		9	61.6	85.1	47.6
4	42.3	54.6	33.8		16	59.5	74.0	50.2
20	40.9	46.5	38.7		15	52.5	67.3	44.7
12	35.8	50.3	26.7		6	51.1	34.4	62.3
15	34.6	22.2	39.4		19	43.6	37.7	45.9
7	34.4	45.6	27.6		4	42.8	30.9	52.8
19	32.1	32.2	33.3		12	42.2	25.5	53.0
6	30.9	43.0	23.7		7	41.4	24.5	52.6
16	26.6	14.9	34.8		20	36.7	31.3	39.2
9	24.7	10.4	34.9		13	36.5	27.5	43.4
5	22.4	35.8	14.6		14	26.2	20.4	28.3
1	19.4	12.4	25.0		17	26.0	31.3	21.0
2	18.5	7.2	26.9		10	21.7	15.8	25.5
8	14.2	22.9	9.1		3	15.8	11.6	18.9
18	13.5	16.3	12.1		11	7.7	4.8	10.1

Analysis of the Comments on Particular Sites

The analysis of comments for and against particular sites is still in progress. It is worth noting that site boundaries locations and boundaries suggested on the maps are indicative and were based on information available to us at the time of drafting. They were not intended to be definitive borders to plots owned by particular individuals. Information detailed about each site was similarly drawn from a number of sources and is recorded to the best of our knowledge at the time of writing. Some respondents have provided information which will assist in refining the site assessment information.

It is also clear that the prospect of losing the infants school from the centre of the village is strongly opposed, although there were some arguments for moving it to adjoin the Downlands and Windmills sites.

Further results will be published when the analysis has been completed.