

St Mabyn survey conclusions

ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Natural environment and wildlife - An overwhelming majority of people either Strongly Agreed or agreed that the natural environment, existing wildlife and habitats should be protected or enhanced.

Renewable energy - The great majority of respondents (94.6%), felt that they were generally favourable towards renewable energy. However, when asked about specific renewable energy options the results were more mixed with solar panels on public and private buildings finding more favour than either wind turbines or field based solar panels.

Open spaces and landscape - There was strong support for the preservation of open spaces and the existing agricultural landscape.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES, HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Community facilities - By an overwhelming margin the protection and provision of community facilities such as cafés, the pub, local shop and post office etc. was considered the most important issue within the choices offered.

Parking - Although not one of the options offered, a number of residents also said that there is an urgent need for better parking in the village.

HOUSING

Primary residences - Many residents think that any new housing built should be for primary residences only and that there should be a significant affordable element in any proposal put forward.

Location and scale of Housing - There is a very clear first choice preference for any new housing development to be small scale in-filling within existing settlements.

Concerns about development - The chief concerns about new residential development include, too many people moving into an area that is relatively sparsely populated at present, the potential impact on the local landscape and a loss of village character.

Assisted accommodation - A significant number of people felt that land should be made available for assisted accommodation for the elderly. However, it is clear that a large number of people felt they were not qualified to hold a firm opinion either way.

Design guide - A clear majority of people thought that the Neighbourhood Plan team should produce a design guide to help developers in their choice of appropriate materials and building styles.

CONNECTIVITY, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Getting around - Public transport provision in the Parish was not considered adequate by a great many of respondents. Just 8.9% of respondents felt it adequately met their needs with almost 40% disagreeing.

A significant number of those who said they did not use public transport also indicated they might do if it met their needs.

What is the problem? - The biggest issue seems to be too few buses.

EDUCATION & YOUNG CHILDREN

Children in school - Of those that do have children in education, the largest numbers of survey respondents had children in primary school. This may have implications for the provision of facilities for teenagers in the future.

Youth voice - Amongst those under 18 years of age, a Youth Council was the most popular choice to increase youth representation, followed by through the school and then parish council representation. Nobody in this age group thought that the Sunday School was a viable way of giving them a stronger voice.

HISTORIC SITES & LOCAL CULTURE

Support for historic sites - Most people either strongly agreed or agreed with the statements showing strong support for the protection of historic sites and local culture.

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

Employment status - Retired people (who were over represented in the survey sample) were the biggest group of respondents followed by the employed and self-employed.

Business ownership - Just under a quarter of respondents said that they ran a business in the Parish, which broadly correspond with census data.

Business location - Of those that ran a business in the Parish, a large majority ran it from their home with few people operating from dedicated premises.

Business premises - Rural workshops were clearly the most popular choice for business people or those wishing to start a business in the Parish. There was also a need for private or shared office space and a desire for small scale agricultural or horticultural units.

Help for business - There is a very clear need for better mobile phone reception and faster broadband amongst existing business owners.