

BROOKWOOD AND BRIDLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Report on December 2015 Questionnaire Survey

Background The Questionnaire was sent out to all 245 members of the Forum and a further 210 people who answered the 2014 Questionnaire, 455 in all. A total of 234 Questionnaires were returned, giving a very good response rate of 51%.



What did the Respondents say?

ON HOUSING

1. 63% of respondents agree that 1 and 2 bedroom houses should be built on the Ex-Coblans and Five Acres area, although a number point out that new homes would create more traffic and require more infrastructure.
2. 94% want any Traveller site to comply with best practice guidelines, particularly in relation to density and quality of accommodation. Several respondents comment that the site should not be expanded but used for starter homes and that it should be strictly controlled and not overused.
3. 73% think the existing quantity of bungalows should be maintained.
4. 88% are in support of any new housing being in character with existing dwellings although a few respondents think that some originality and modern stylish homes would improve the area; flats would not be an asset.

ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY

1. 92% of respondents are keen to maintain a large range of retail outlets in Brookwood and encourage new businesses including a pharmacy, a pub and a B&B, although some express concern that new businesses would result in more traffic, which is a recurring comment in respect of many questions.
2. Martlands Industrial Estate gains 73% support for improvements to the site, particularly access. However there is concern that costs to existing businesses should not increase.

ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

1. 97% of respondents want to protect and encourage use of existing green spaces including the canal, although several point out that cycles can be a hazard and wildlife needs protection against overuse of green spaces.
2. 71% are in favour of improving facilities at Sheet's Heath recreation ground, although only 49% support a new pavilion. Other comments are that tennis courts need re-surfacing, a playground would be an asset and all facilities need to be vandal-proof.
3. 76% of respondents wish to discourage use of cars by encouraging walking and cycling and use of public transport.

ON TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC AND PARKING

1. 94% want steps taken to reduce congestion at Brookwood crossroads.
 - (a) 71% think re-routing the A324 along Cemetery Pales would assist in achieving that aim.
 - (b) 89% consider pedestrian and cycling access to Brookwood Station from Bridley and Pirbright should be provided through the Cemetery. The provision of cycle parking on both sides of the station is also suggested.

2. 88% are keen to reduce congestion at Pirbright Tunnel.
 - (a) 77% support improving the traffic light phasing to include traffic exiting from Brunswick / Bisley Camp Road. However it is pointed out that such changes might create more of a rat run and increase congestion.

3. 82% wish to improve road safety through speed restrictions and other means.
 - (a) 58% want a 20 mph limit in Connaught Road; 29% are against.
 - (b) 51% are against more speed cushions in Connaught Road; only 36% want them.
 - (c) Only 48% are in favour of a roundabout at the A322/Cemetery Pales junction; 27% are against and the rest don't know.
 - (d) Only 34% are in favour of improving the exit from West Hill onto the A322; 36% are against and the rest don't know.
 - (e) 54% want increased safety measures for vehicles exiting Clodhouse Road onto Heath House Road; only 4% are against; the rest don't know.
 - (f) 59% are in favour of a 30 mph limit on Heath House Road and Blackhorse Road (30% are against). It was commented that there are fewer houses on Blackhorse Road and the lower limit is less necessary there and also that a 30 mph limit is needed on the narrow part of Berry Lane.
 - (g) 68% want a 40 mph limit on Brookwood Lye Road.

4. 85% want adequate and safe parking in Brookwood
 - (a) Only 50% want verges made available for off-street parking; 28% are against. It is pointed out that verges help visibility and make the area pleasanter for all.
 - (b) 85% think any new housing should have to have at least 1 parking space for a one bedroom dwelling, 2 for a 2 or 3 bedroom one and 3 for one with 4 or more bedrooms.
 - (c) 71% support reversing the entrance and exit roads to Brookwood Station. Preventing parking opposite Brookwood Club on Connaught Road and providing parking in the station car park is also supported.

5. 84% want improvements made to pedestrian and cycling facilities.
 - (a) 77% want step-free access to platform 2 of the station to be provided.