

Martock Neighbourhood Plan Initial Consultation Mini-Questionnaire Report



our village, our future

March 2016

Introduction

The Martock Neighbourhood Plan Initial Consultation was held on Saturday 12 March 2016 in the Market House and was open to the public from 10 am – 3 pm. The event was organised by the Martock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group around the 5 core pillars agreed for the plan:

- Facilities
- Local Character
- Housing
- Getting Around
- Jobs

The event had a number of key aims:

- To inform the community of the Parish about Neighbourhood Planning; about the purpose and process of these plans.
- To recruit more volunteers for the Plan to undertake various roles.
- To start a list of interested parties who wish to be kept informed of the Plan's progress.
- To collect the community's views on life in the village based around, though not restricted to, the 5 core pillars.

The Consultation was publicised on the Neighbourhood Plan website <http://www.martockplan.org.uk/>, Martock Online <http://www.martockonline.co.uk/>, Facebook and through hand-delivered flyers and posters in the Parish.

The room was set up as follows:

- There were a number of stations for each of the 5 pillars. There were large A1 maps of the Parish; post-it notes and pens and paper at each station for people to record their views and comments.
- A register to record visitors.
- A list to collect details of residents who wish to be kept informed of progress.
- A Glad, Sad, Mad board for visitors to record aspects of life in the Parish that please or displease them or make them angry.
- Examples of completed Neighbourhood Plans and other information.
- Information on the Parish such as the Peripheral Landscape Study and the South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028.
- Information on posters about what Neighbourhood Plans can and cannot do.
- A Mini-Questionnaire, which is the subject of this report.

The Consultation was extremely well-attended and attracted 145 visitors, which was far more than typically attend such events in the Parish and more than were expected.

The Mini-Questionnaire

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group produced a short questionnaire to accompany the Consultation. The questionnaire was designed around the 5 pillars and questions were written in as open a way as possible. The first 2 introductory questions on the positives and negatives of life in the Parish are qualitative, but the remaining 8 questions are mostly multiple choice or are ranking exercises. The formulation of the questions enabled responses to be easily and effectively analysed.

The Mini-Questionnaire was available at the Consultation. Some were completed at the event; some were taken away and returned to the Post Office; some were printed off from the website and were then completed and returned to the Post Office; and some were available in the Post Office, Market house and Library and were then completed and returned to the Post Office. The Mini-Questionnaire was available for a total of 10 days following the Consultation.

The Questionnaire:

Martock Neighbourhood Plan Mini Questionnaire

1. The things I like about living in Martock are:

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-

2. The things I dislike about living in Martock are:

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-
-

3. How often do you use village facilities such as the Village Hall, the Library or the Recreation Ground on average? (Circle one.)

- Every day
- Every week
- Every month
- Seldom/never

4. How often do you shop in the village on average? (Circle one.)

- Every day

- Every week
- Every month
- Seldom/never

5. Rate the following transport provision from 1 – 5.
(1 = excellent; 2 = good; 3 = fair; 4 = need improvement; 5 = poor.)

- Roads
- Public transport
- Car parking
- Footpaths and cycle paths

6. Housing need. Circle the statement you most agree with:

- The village does not need any more houses
- The village needs affordable homes for local people
- The village needs more open market housing

7. What type of new housing should be built in the village? (You may circle more than one option.)

- Flats
- Bungalows
- 1 – 2 bedroom houses
- 3 – 4 bedroom houses
- Self Build
- Other

8. Martock needs more employment land:

- Yes
- No

9. How would you rate the quality of your broadband connection?

- Good
- Poor

10. How important are the following aspect of Martock's local character to you?
(Rank them in order – 1 being the most valued and 4 the least.)

- Green space
- Architecture & heritage
- The Natural Environment
- Village feel

I live in the village and am:

- 0 – 15
- 16 – 24
- 25 – 44
- 45 – 64
- 65 – 74
- 75 +

Other comments:

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Thank you very much for your time.

Results

Most of the returned questionnaires were answered fully. Some questions were not answered. One questionnaire was not completed fully: the questions were not answered, but a full comment was written in the final 'Other comments' section. For the purposes of analysis, therefore, this questionnaire has been removed from the count, though the comment has been included.

87 questionnaires were completed.

A total of 51 questionnaires were completed at the Consultation Event on 12 March. A further 36 were completed and returned from 12 – 19 March.

Answers and analysis

Question 1: The things I like about living in Martock are (in order of frequency):

- Friendly people – 43
- Local amenities – 23
- Local shops – 22
- Location – 18
- Ambience – 17
- Easy to get around – 13
- Architecture – 11
- Clubs – 9
- Peace – 8
- Community support – 8
- Old hamstone buildings – 6

Size – 5
Beauty – 5
Bus service – 4
The historic feel - 4
Access to paths – 3
Primary school – 3
Church – 3
Cleanliness – 2
Safety – 2
Market – 2
Agriculture – 2
Recreation – 2
No tourists – 2
Good driving – 1

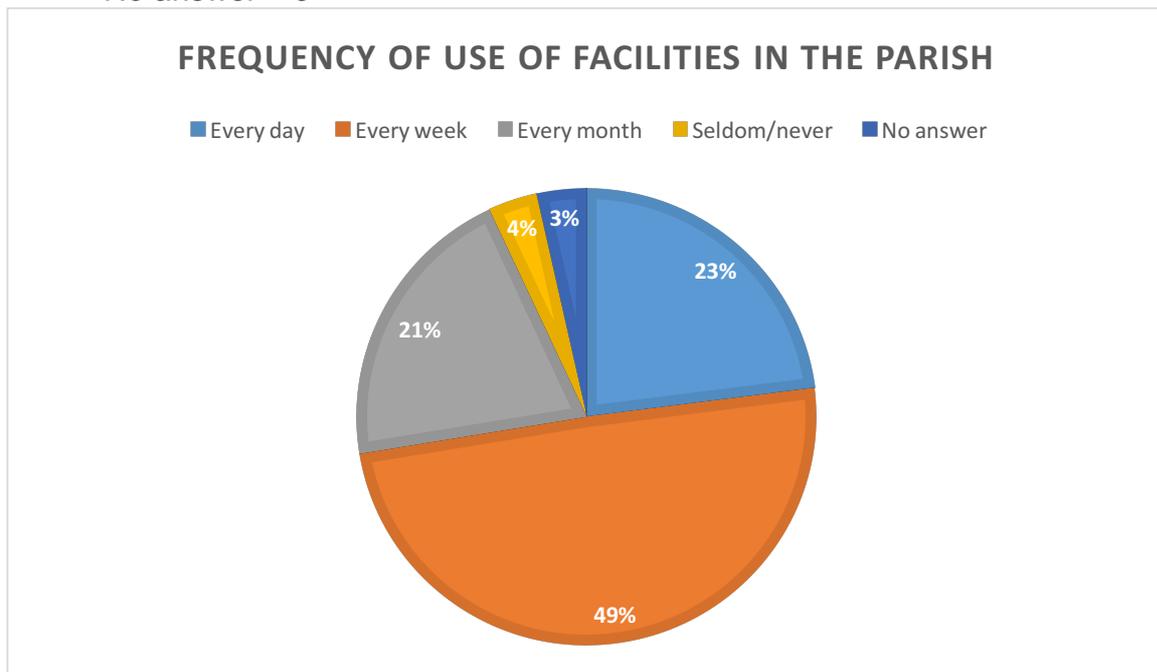
Question 2: The things I dislike most about living in Martock are (in order of frequency):

Traffic – 31
Development – 16
Lorries – 9
Public transport – 9
Nothing – 8
Shops – 8
Untidy – 8
Dog fouling – 7
Lack of affordable housing – 6
Cars parked on pavements – 5
Parking – 4
Poor communication with MPC – 4
Condition of pavements – 4
Condition of roads – 3
Speeding – 3
Flooding – 3
Not enough pubs – 3
GP surgery too small – 3
Unfriendly people – 2
No secondary school – 2
Poor market access – 2
Lack of volunteers – 2
Narrow roads – 2
Parish Council Tax – 1
Police presence – 1
Drainage system – 1
Drugs in Martock – 1
Lack of jobs – 1
Lack of public toilets – 1
Lack of community space – 1

Lack of facilities for the young – 1
Being sucked into Yeovil – 1

Question 3: How often do you use village facilities such as the Village Hall, the Library or the Recreation Ground on average? (Number circled):

- Every day – 20
- Every week – 43
- Every month – 18
- Seldom/never – 3
- No answer – 3

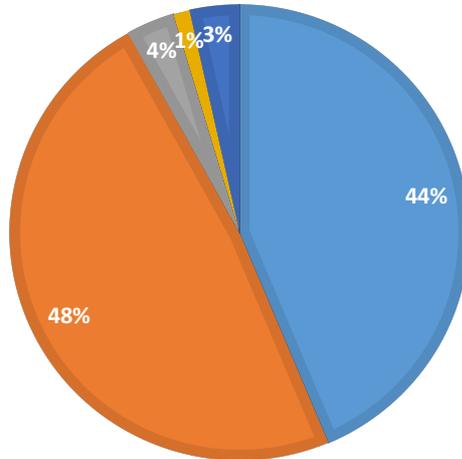


Question 4: How often do you shop in the village on average? (Number circled):

- Every day – 38
- Every week – 42
- Every month – 3
- Seldom/never – 1
- No answer – 3

FREQUENCY OF USE OF LOCAL SHOPS IN THE PARISH

■ Every day ■ Every week ■ Every month ■ Seldom/never ■ No answer



Question 5: Rate the following transport provision from 1 – 5.
(1 = excellent; 2 = good; 3 = fair; 4 = need improvement; 5 = poor.)

Roads

- Excellent – 2 (2%)
- Good – 15 (17%)
- Fair – 27 (31%)
- Need improvement – 25 (29%)
- Poor – 10 (12%)
- No response – 3 (4%)

Public transport

- Excellent – 8 (9%)
- Good – 11 (13%)
- Fair – 18 (21%)
- Need improvement – 22 (25%)
- Poor – 14 (16%)
- No response – 14 (16%)

Car parking

- Excellent – 10 (12%)
- Good – 25 (29%)
- Fair – 24 (28%)
- Need improvement – 17 (20%)
- Poor – 2 (2%)
- No response – 9 (10%)

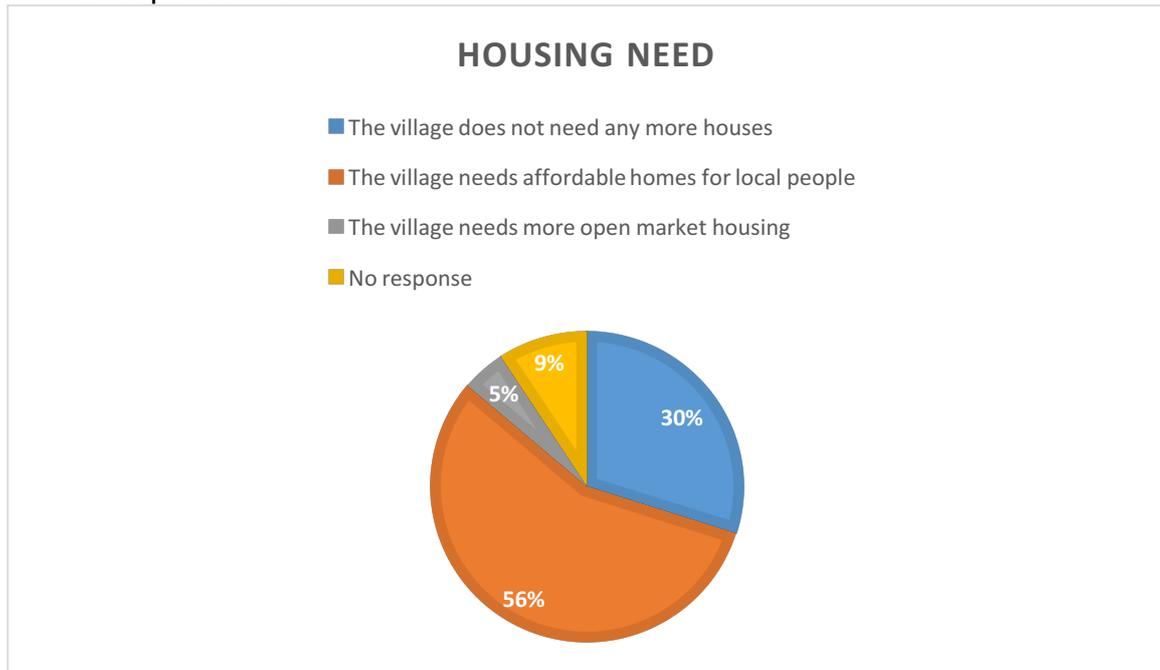
Footpaths and cycle paths

- Excellent – 3 (4%)
- Good – 15 (17%)
- Fair – 28 (32%)

Need improvement – 25 (29%)
 Poor – 9 (10%)
 No response – 7 (8%)

Question 6: Housing need. Numbers who circled the statement they most agree with:

- The village does not need any more houses – 26
- The village needs affordable homes for local people – 49
- The village needs more open market housing – 4
- No response – 8

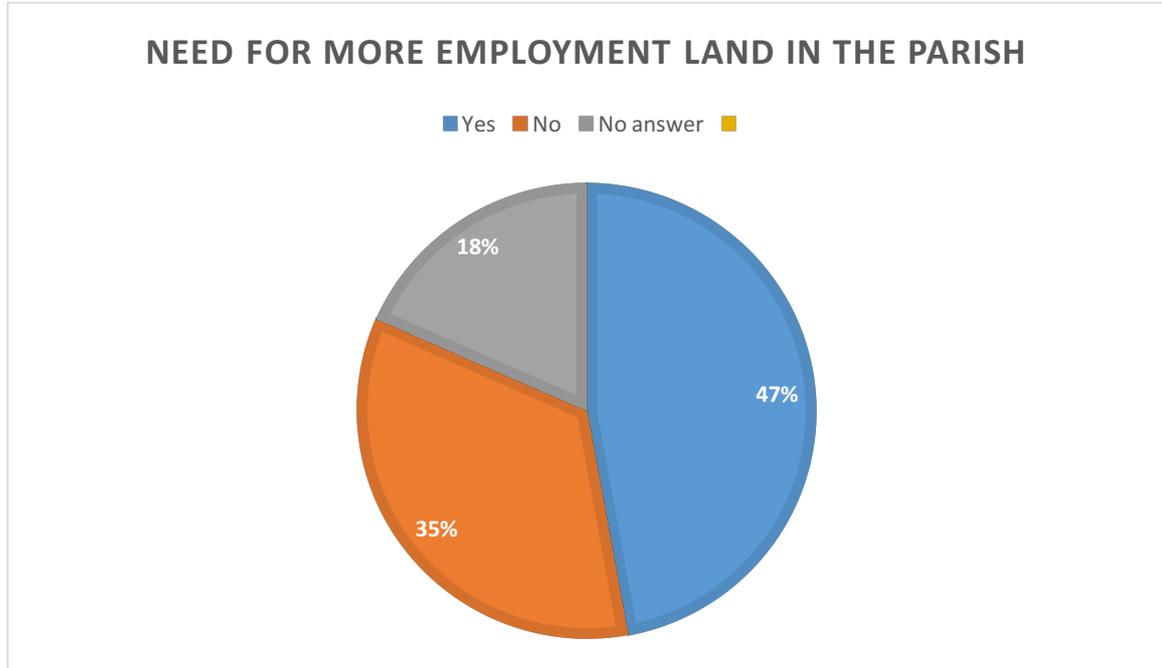


Question 7: What type of new housing should be built in the village? (Numbers who circled each option. Respondents could circle more than one option.)

- Flats - 3
- Bungalows - 19
- 1 – 2 bedroom houses - 46
- 3 – 4 bedroom houses - 18
- Self Build - 18
- None – 8
- Affordable - 5
- Mix of styles – 3
- Sustainable – 3
- CLT – 3
- Mix of sizes – 1
- A small development - 1
- Houses should be in keeping - 1
- Eco – 1
- Local houses for local people – 1
- Houses on green field sites should be carbon neutral with % shared ownership - 1

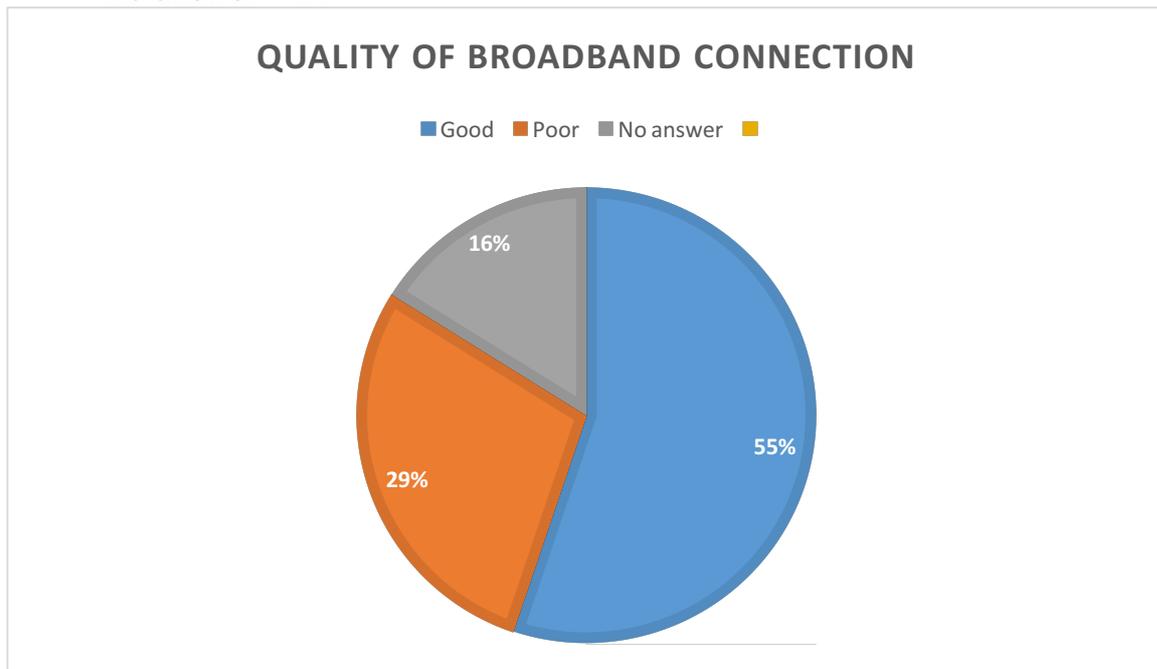
Question 8: Martock needs more employment land:

- Yes – 41
- No – 30
- No answer – 16



Question 9: How would you rate the quality of your broadband connection?

- Good – 48
- Poor – 25
- No answer – 14



Question 10: How important are the following aspect of Martock's local character to you? (Rank them in order – 1 being the most valued and 4 the least.)

Green space

Most valued – 15 (17%)
Valued – 17 (20%)
Less valued – 17 (20%)
Least valued – 8 (9%)

Architecture & heritage

Most valued – 7 (8%)
Valued – 15 (17%)
Less valued – 14 (16%)
Least valued – 20 (23%)

The Natural Environment

Most valued – 9 (10%)
Valued – 17 (20%)
Less valued – 15 (17%)
Least valued – 15 (17%)

Village feel

Most valued – 29 (33%)
Valued – 13 (15%)
Less valued – 8 (9%)
Least valued – 8 (9%)

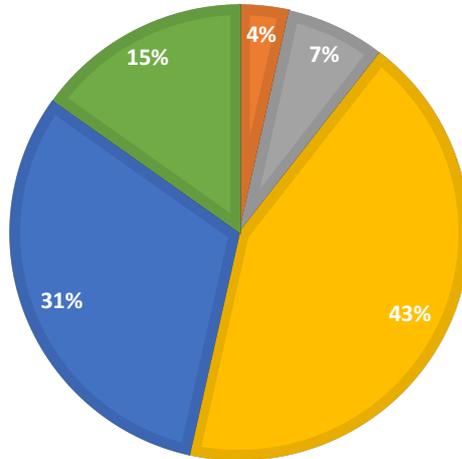
25 respondents felt that all aspect of Martock's local character were equally important.

Age range of respondents

- 0 – 15
- 16 – 24 3
- 25 – 44 6
- 45 – 64 37
- 65 – 74 27
- 75 + 13

AGE RANGE OF RESPONDENTS

■ 0-15 ■ 16-24 ■ 25-44 ■ 45-64 ■ 65-74 ■ 75+



Other comments:

Martock need to keep a vibrant sense of itself, a fine balance between a stultified 'heritage' site and a dormitory town for Yeovil/Bristol. We need to attract young people and families, so affordable housing is a must and room for older people to downsize too. A mixture of age groups is essential.

I have lived here just 8 weeks, but have been impressed by how friendly people are. I am surprised how fast some people drive, including the tractors. I think there is a case for the whole of Martock, Hurst and Bower Hinton becoming 20 mph.

Please consider a community approach to housing developments for young people who cannot afford to get on the housing ladder – but do not compromise our green spaces.

Having recently moved to Martock, I am struck by the positive village feel and particularly concerned by the amount of traffic travelling over 30 mph through Hurst and through Martock especially during the evenings.

There is a very good community spirit in the village, which adds to the quality of life here. Most home owners take a pride in their front gardens, but in Church Street and Water Street hedges are neglected, forcing pedestrians to step into the road.

We need better forms of communication: noticeboards, open days for the Parish Council. There is a need for people to feel involved.

I would like people who do not live in Martock, buying houses to rent stopped; because they do not check their properties, as people who rent don't look after the property of even pay rent, as I have had them live next door to me plus they were foreign families.

Not the village I moved to 30 years ago because it was nice.

Before building more houses, need to improve infrastructure. No houses in inappropriate positions.

Could use a bus stop near the Recreation Ground.

This is a great opportunity for local people to have say rather than being 'done to' by people not from the village.

Doctor's surgery is overloaded – can't take any more patients.

Have lived here most of my life – 70 years (almost). Have always loved it and changes are good. Having plenty of buses makes it good for non-drivers.

Any development of Martock MUST take the infrastructure into account ie pressure on Health Centre, school, parking, road usage. We already have the failed Martock Lock development which if ever built may flout original intentions re social housing.

The Bower Hinton/Hurst Road is not a B road and need to be reclassified to stop HGVs using it. There is going to be a bad accident soon. The Stoke Road should be reclassified.

Martock needs more social housing namely one bed bungalows.

Drainage ditches round the Rec need more regular clearing to maximise use of paths and pitches. Tree planting to enhance environment and help prevent flooding in long term. Could this be a memorial to Kathy Roswell who use the Rec and cared for it?

Love living here. Lived here 30 years and very happy.

Good to see so many people coming together to support the local community. Let's hope we are listened to.

Building houses etc must be done in conjunction with the size of facilities.

Fair options for all living in the village.

I hope the future is genuinely the priority here, not personal or political progress.

I think Martock needs more parking areas for residents. It is a pity that no one from the Our Place Project was here to show how important community buildings are to the life and well being of a village.

I would not have known about this questionnaire if it hadn't been given to me in the Post Office. No delivery to Church Street addresses that I know of.

Ban HGVs (apart from access) to North Street, Water Street and Bower Hinton.

Building more houses would detract from the village feel because the infrastructure need to improve – more roads, a bigger school, a bigger medical facility, better parking, more buses – so the village becomes a small Yeovil, which is not what is needed.

I am not against open market housing as such. The problem is how the village has developed. I also wonder how realistic it is to maybe start looking into grants and fundraising for a swimming pool.

Thank you for making an effort to gauge opinion. Personally, I like living in a village. If I wanted new industrial estates and 500 new houses to be built I would go and live in a town or a city.

Focus on big picture. What will drive the Martock economy? Martock must attract spending from outside and become a destination as well as be self-sufficient.

I appreciate the need to make some sacrifices to enable a fair experience for other residents.

Sort it out sooner rather than later.

Need a bypass for Ash from Foldhill Lane to Stapleton.

The village always looks clean and tidy in my view. I feel it was a great shame when we lost the lovely 'George' but as everyone knows, money speaks volumes.

The Recreation Area, although very good, could do with more facilities particularly for the older generation. A meeting indoor place would be appreciated.

We have lived here for 30 years now; it is obvious that both affordable housing and more local employment are needed to provide a continued acceptance by young families, rather than having to commute to either Yeovil or Crewkerne.

No more building on Foldhill Lane.

Flooding is a big issue. Start dredging and don't build on flood plains.

The Neighbourhood Plan should include a section on flooding. Any development, residential or industrial, should incorporate renewable energy or planning refused.

Martock relief road needed.

There are too many middle aged non working decision makers in Martock, which does not represent the majority of the local population. Nothing will change while this is the case.

Martock is finding it difficult to cope now with our road system, our doctor's surgery, school, etc. Large lorries trying to leave along highway to Ash (dangerous).

New building Martock is spoiling the village it is losing its character.

As it seems inevitable we will grow, we should aim to grow E-W not N-S. Keep space between Martock and Stapleton/Coat. Increase infrastructure accordingly – better employment in village – better DR, dentist, school, etc. We must not become a dormitory for Yeovil (any more than we are now). Must build well-designed houses that fit Martock's style – not standard 'could be anywhere' boxes.

Improvements needed to the doctor's and the dentist.

We are passionate about Martock, and do not want it to lose its identity as a village. More housing will bring more crime and ever more increased traffic.

Because of the need, housing development needs to happen, but it should be planned ie no ad-hoc uncoordinated schemes, and infrastructure eg roads, schools need to be built in order to match development.

Youth Centre in Stapleton would be what my kids would like.

Martock is a village not a market town as it is described on the information board in the car park. We have a Parish Council, not a Town Council. The school is improving and becoming more popular but it is already squeezed – parents need to know what plans for the future are in place as we have been told nothing.

No more build-outs, speed cameras instead, at least they raise revenue. Promote farming. Protect against flooding.

Designate the open space field on Middle Street, Bower Hinton as not suitable for development. A planning appeal (APP/R3325/A13/2206348) for development was dismissed on 30/4/14 on the ground that development would cause 'substantial harm to the character and appearance of the Bower Hinton Conservation Area' and that it is adjacent to a listed building. It is of historical importance as the last remaining such open field (between housing) in the village and as such need to be preserved without future development.

The comment from the questionnaire not completed:

The Adopted Local Plan has set the quota of the number of new dwellings and for sound reasons. This quota has either been exceeded or nearly been already. The community needs to strive to re-adjust the current imbalance which tips Martock towards loss of everything the community cares for and instead, forge a future for both village and Parish that is truly sustainable.