

Action Plan D1

Retaining the character of the villages and improving the effectiveness of the Village Design Statement

Background

The Parish Plan project has been designed to, amongst many other things, help to update Buriton's Village Design Statement and so help ensure that any new development is designed and located to respect local characteristics and the qualities that residents value. From the comments received during the project, it appears that people feel that most of the Village Design Statement is still valid and important – but that there could be a few additions. *The Great Village Voice Questionnaire* Survey asked a number of questions to help improve and update the Village Design Statement.

At Village Voice House Parties and workshops people had explained that other villages are gradually losing their attractive appearances and local character because many small changes are made without adequate attention to detail (eg. inappropriate roadside kerbing, extra bits of concrete or tarmac for car-parking, stark garden walls and other things that remove the 'soft edges' of villages). In response to the Great Village Voice Questionnaire Survey, 93% of respondents said that 'it is important for everyone to pay attention to small details and to retain the character of our villages' whilst only 2% said that 'there is no need to encourage people to keep things in character, let them do whatever they want' (5% had no opinion on this matter).

Other results were as follows:

- 87% of respondents agreed that the entrances to the settlements are generally very attractive and that any new development should not detract from this situation
- 83% agreed that Buriton village is generally hidden from view as you approach it
- 82% said that if there is to be any traffic calming in the parish, it should look more in keeping with the character of the villages than the current examples in Buriton High Street
- 59% had worries about the visual effects of small wind-turbines being fitted to individual houses
- 54% of respondents felt that there are too many signs, too much clutter and that

signs should be rationalised and reduced

- 48% had worries about the sub-division of fields with extra fencing, sheds and shelters for pony paddocks.

The Questionnaire also sought examples of any recent developments in the parish that are felt to be out of character and of open spaces that are felt to be at risk and in need of safeguarding. 48 households provided examples of out-of-character developments (either specific locations or generic issues) with 23 of them citing one particular building. 55 households felt that there are some open spaces which may be at risk with the Links and adjacent fields behind Bones Lane being the most commonly cited, just ahead of the fields along Greenway Lane.

In the original survey for the Village Design Statement in 1999, over 80% of respondents said that they felt that the gap between the parish and Petersfield was important (to preserve the special identity of the local communities etc). The Great Village Voice Questionnaire Survey asked how people feel about this issue in 2007 and 92% now feel that it is important that the gap is preserved (6% had no opinion on the matter).

There were also other answers and comments from other parts of the Questionnaire that are relevant to the Village Design Statement including changes that spoil views from public paths, visual intrusion of overhead cables in the countryside and in villages, bright lights at night spoiling views of stars and damage to rural lanes by traffic.



Finally, the Great Village Voice Questionnaire Survey asked whether people felt that the planning authority pays sufficient attention to Buriton's Village Design Statement. 57% of respondents said that they did not know, 11% of respondents said 'yes' (that sufficient attention was paid) but 32% said 'no' (ie. they did not feel that the planning authority pays sufficient attention to the VDS).




(Action plan appears on following sheet)

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(continued)

	action completed
	ongoing action / activity required
	activity incomplete / action still required

Activities	Target for Completion	Who	Notes	Status / Progress
<p>Village Voice Group to refer the following issues to the VDS Group to be addressed in a review / update of the Village Design Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - changes that spoil views from public paths - visual intrusion of overhead cables in the countryside and in villages - bright lights at night spoiling views of stars - damage to rural lanes by traffic - developments felt to be out of character - open spaces felt to be at risk - retain attractive entrances to settlements - retain the 'hidden' nature of settlements - worries about sub-divisions of fields, fencing, sheds, shelters for pony paddocks - worries about visual effects of small wind-turbines fitted to individual houses - everyone should pay attention to small details to retain the local character - any traffic calming should be more 'in keeping' - reduce/rationalise signs and street clutter - the types of housing preferred in the survey - the importance of the gap between the parish and Petersfield 	March 2008	Village Voice Group		
Village Design Group to update the VDS in conjunction with Parish Council and get 'adoption' by EHDC as a Supplementary Planning Document	September 2008	Village Design Group, Parish Council, EHDC	Published (and adopted by EHDC) January 2009	
Parish Council and District Council to refer to the Village Design Statement when considering every planning application	Ongoing	Parish Council, EHDC		


Action Plan D2

New development in the parish

Background

The results from the Great Village Voice Questionnaire Survey show that, whilst 32% of respondents feel that the parish can support more housing development, 60% do not feel that it can (with 9% giving no opinion). With regard to commercial / industrial developments, 16% respondents feel that the parish can support more whilst 74% do not feel that it can (with 11% giving no opinion). The survey then asked “If there is to be more development in the parish, what sort of houses do you

think should be provided?” and people were asked to rank five alternative answers in order of importance: in joint first place (ie. considered to be the most important) were “affordable housing (by Housing Associations)” and “small family homes (up to 2 bedrooms)”; in joint third place were specialist housing (eg. sheltered housing for the elderly)” and “starter homes / flats”; and in fifth place (ie. least important) were “large family homes (3-4 bedrooms and above)”.

Activities	Target for Completion	Who	Notes	Status / Progress
Parish Council to note parishioners' views from the survey, workshops and House Parties about supporting new development in the parish and about the types of housing preferred	June 2008	Parish Council		
Parish Council to have regard to the survey of parishioners' views etc when considering planning applications	Ongoing	Parish Council		