

The Built Environment



21 November 2007

The Freshford Parish Plan - The Built Environment

Definitions

- The Built Environment
 - all those parts of our surroundings that are man-made
 - as opposed to the Natural Environment, which covers just about everything else

The Constraints

- Freshford & Sharpstone are within
 - a Conservation Area
 - the Green Belt
 - the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- And there are 60 listed buildings and other structures

The Challenge

- Picturesque setting: No 1 reason for settling in Freshford (Q22)
- 75% concerned about global warming (Q11)
- Overwhelming support for retention of parish's nature (Q17)
- How to retain while responding to the demands of the 21st Century.

The Approach

- Small working group
 - Vanessa Coates
 - Bryan Ecclestone
 - Neal Pollard
 - Hugh Delap

The Approach

- Reviewing and attempting to respond to the data in the questionnaire;
- Based on the questionnaire, evaluating the current priorities
- Suggesting how the wishes of the community could be best provided for

An observation

- Only 6% of the respondents have no motor transport (Q2)
- Dealt with by Getting About but has great impact on Built Environment

Recommendations

- New buildings
 - 46% live in post 1900s houses (Q2)
 - Respect the existing but no presumption against modern design. Infill option always preferable
 - 67% support provision of more affordable housing and housing for the elderly (Q18)
 - These must be appropriate to their surroundings

Recommendations

- Utilities
 - underground

Recommendations

- Footpaths and Pavements
 - A majority favoured more pavements (Q32)
 - Any should be of natural stone
 - Effect of shared space?

Recommendations



- Road signs and finger posts
 - A small majority favoured more (Q32)
 - The old, cast iron should be repaired and retained.
 - Keep any others to the absolute minimum (Shared space?)

Recommendations

- Street lighting
 - A small majority favoured more (Q32)
 - Effective and efficient but in keeping with surroundings
 - Keep in the care of the Parish Council



Recommendations

- Dry stone walls
 - Retain and maintain
 - consider very carefully any proposals to remove or alter
- Conservation Area appraisal



Recommendations

- Fences
 - Repair and maintain the old metal post and rail
 - resist inappropriate chain-link & barbed wire
 - Conservation Area appraisal

Recommendations

- Parking & Garages
 - 2/3rds of respondents have at least one garage (Q3/2)
 - Any new parking places must be chosen and designed with care
 - Garages can be things of beauty but many are of the '60s style concrete panel and metal door



Recommendations

- Particular buildings
 - Freshford Mill
 - St Peter's Church
 - The Inn at Freshford
 - The Village Hall
 - The proposed Post Office and shop
 - The School
 - The Station



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