

ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Introduction

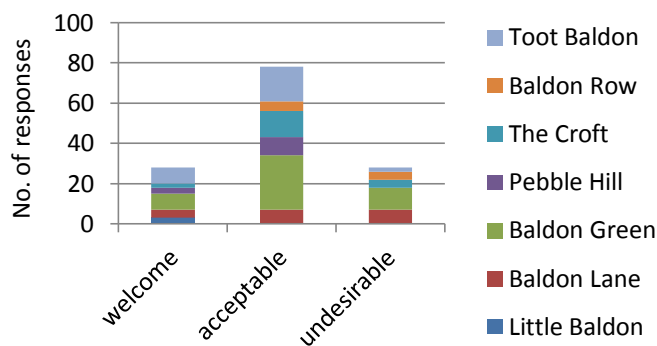
350 copies of a consultation paper and questionnaire were distributed to all Baldons residents aged 16 and over in February 2016. 140 responses were received - a response rate of 40% - and an analysis of these responses was presented to the public at a meeting in the Seven Stars public house on March 22 2016. A summary of the data is provided at the end of this analysis.

Response to the public consultation paper

An analysis of the response we received is follows:

Population growth

Q: Do you feel that in principle population growth is undesirable / acceptable / welcome?

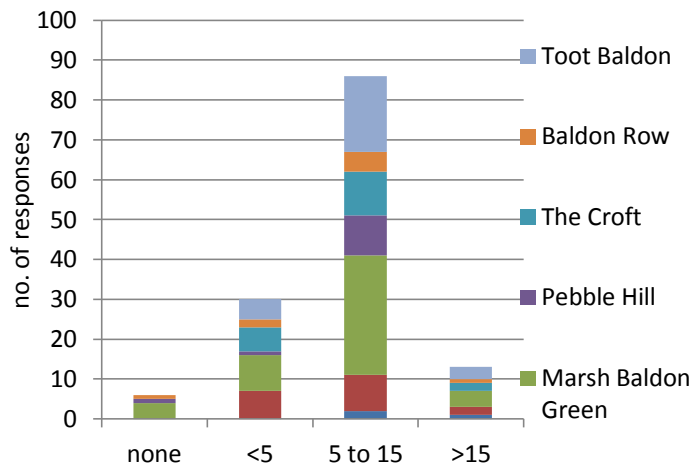


As the histogram shows, most respondents (80%) either accept or welcome some population growth in the Baldons over the next 10 years.

Housing Development

Q: which of the following development scenarios do you feel most comfortable?

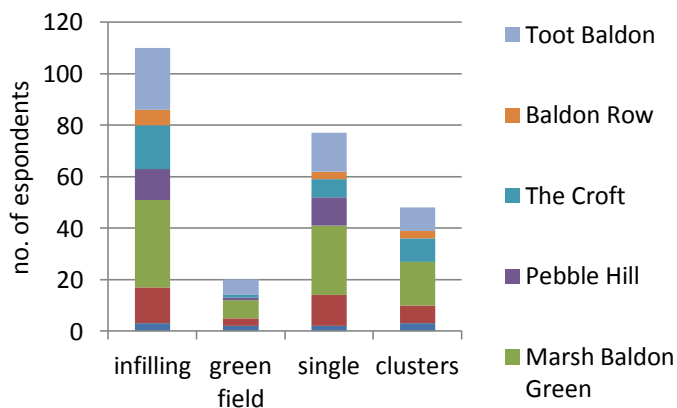
- 0-5 houses
- 5-15 houses
- Over 15 houses



Most people would accept between 5 and 15 new houses in the Baldons, but note that population growth also depends on occupancy: new weekend cottages would be ineffective. For many, the acceptance of more houses would be conditional on them being modest in size and appropriate in style

Siting

Q: Would you prefer new development to be sited in gaps between existing buildings (infilling) or in open spaces (green field development)



A large majority of respondents favour infilling over green field development. Opinion is more evenly divided on the choice between developments in single houses or clusters of houses: the point was frequently made that the choice would depend on the size and nature of the plot available

Social housing

Q: Would social housing be desirable and at what level?

- 90% of 135 responses were in favour of some social housing
- 60% of the responses said that the proportion of social housing to all new housing should be 20% or less
- Most people liked the idea of locals getting priority... and most people's attitude to market housing was unaffected by the level of social housing

Business

Q: should planning policy should encourage development of businesses in the neighbourhood

- Of the 126 responses 52% were in favour and 48% against.

Design Guidelines

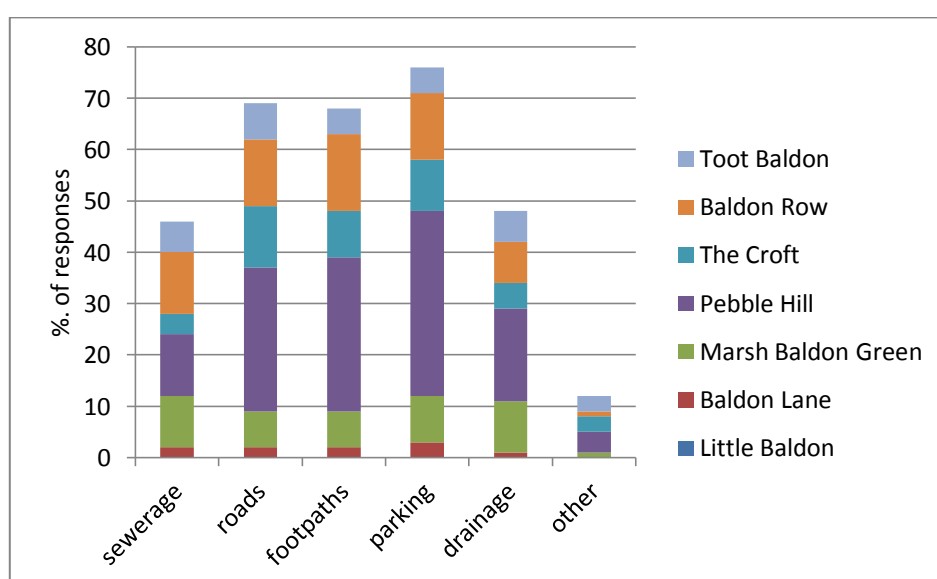
Q: would you like to see enhanced design guidelines included in the Neighbourhood Plan that are specifically aimed at protecting and maintaining the special architectural character and vernacular of the Baldons

A: There was a significant majority (67%) in favour of having enhanced design guidelines specifically for the Baldons.

Infrastructure

Q: irrespective of your views about future development , what do you feel are the key infrastructural issues facing the Baldons today?

A: It is clear from the responses that the existing infrastructure can barely cope with the present demand, and that any significant new development would result in overload, particularly as regards roads and sewerage.



Although there is a broad consensus, it is natural that the perception of most acute infrastructural deficiencies vary from area to area, as follows:

Area	Biggest problems
Baldon Lane	Sewerage and drainage
Marsh Baldon, Pebble Hill and The Croft	Roads, footpaths and parking
Baldon Row	Roads
Toot Baldon	Sewerage, broadband

Toot Baldon sewerage: this is Thames Water's responsibility and action will only be achieved by sustained pressure by the community

Baldon Lane drainage: TW have improved the pumping capacity but the system as a whole is at the limit of its capacity, which will have to be updated to cope with any further development

Roads and traffic: main concerns: volume of traffic, speeding through the Croft, danger to pedestrians. Maintenance issues, especially on the track south of the Green

Footpaths: required for the safety of pedestrians, especially at the south end of the Croft

Parking: widespread perception that school and pub parking is out of control – concern about erosion of the Green

Broadband: inadequate speeds at Toot

The Green Belt

Q: How important is the Green Belt to the Baldons?

A: A very large majority of respondents (86%) are convinced of the importance of the Green Belt in the fight to protect the villages from urban sprawl (Grenoble Road) of the remainder 13% say the Green Belt is quite important and just 1% think it is unimportant.

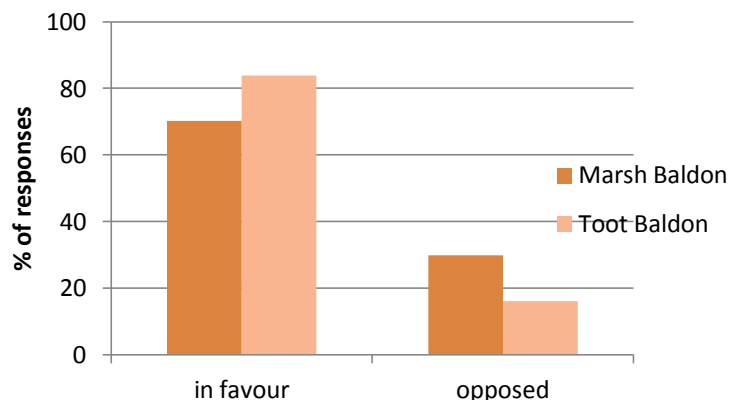
Marsh Baldon Village Green

Q: How do you feel about the present balance between the its environmental protection and public use?

A: a large majority (84%) felt that the present balance was about right. 9% of respondents felt that the Green was under-protected while 7% said it was over-protected. However a general and widespread concern was expressed about the damage being sustained by the edges of the Green from parking.

Conservation Area

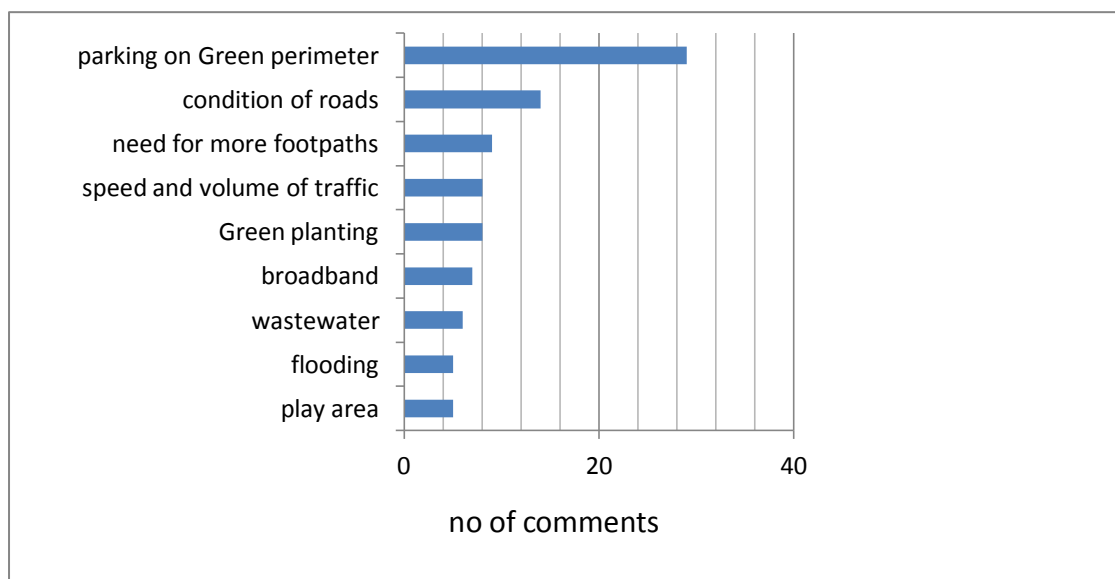
Q: Would you be in favour of a review of the Conservation Area boundary?



A majority of respondents support a review of the Conservation area boundary, especially in Toot, where a review is more urgently needed

Comments

Many and wide ranging comments were received as part of the responses, as shown in the following Figure:



The top three topics were

- Parking on the perimeter road of Marsh Baldon Green, especially that associated with the school and the Seven Stars public house: this results in severe erosion of the Green itself
- A perceived increase in traffic passing through the village, both in terms of volume and speed: this results, in the absence of designated footpaths, to a heightened danger to pedestrians
- Flooding, both from an inadequate wastewater system in Marsh Baldon and the absence of a wastewater system in Toot Baldon, where polluted groundwater surfaces at lower elevations.

DATA SUMMARY

Question			Little Baldon	Baldon Lane	Baldon Green	Pebble Hill	The Croft	Baldon Row	Toot Baldon	TOTAL
		response	3	18	47	12	19	9	30	138
		%	13	45	45	86	39	33	33	39
Growth	welcome		3	4	8	3	2	0	8	28
	acceptable		0	7	27	9	13	5	19	80
	undesirable		0	7	11	0	4	4	3	29
Housing	none		0	0	4	1	0	1	1	7
	<5		0	7	9	1	6	2	5	30
	5 to 15		2	9	30	10	11	5	21	88
	>15		1	2	4	0	2	1	3	13
Siting	infilling		3	14	34	12	17	6	27	113
	green field		2	3	7	1	1	0	6	20
	single		2	12	27	11	7	3	17	79
	clusters		3	7	17	0	9	3	9	48
Policies to encourage Business	yes		3	9	22	4	13	3	12	66
	no		0	8	23	7	4	5	16	63
Importance of Green Belt	no		0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
	quite		2	2	3	1	3	2	4	17
	very		1	16	42	11	16	7	26	119
Social Housing	proportion	<20%	1	8	22	11	10	5	18	75
		20 to 40%	2	8	16	0	7	4	11	48
	local preference	yes	3	15	25	11	15	7	21	97
		no	0	1	13	2	2	2	7	27

	link to question 2	yes no	0 1	3 10	8 31	3 7	2 13	3 5	9 17	28 84
Design Guidelines	enhanced g/l	yes	0	14	31	5	16	9	23	98
		no	3	4	13	7	2	0	7	36
	fewer restrictions	yes	2	1	4	3	0	0	5	15
		no	1	15	41	9	16	8	23	113
Infrastructure	sewerage		2	10	12	4	12	6	26	72
	roads		2	7	28	12	13	7	20	89
	footpaths		2	7	30	9	15	5	20	88
	parking		3	9	36	10	13	5	20	96
	drainage		1	10	18	5	8	6	21	69
	other			1	4	3	1	3	6	18
The Green - the level of protection	overprotected		1	2	4	0	2	0	0	9
	underprotected		0	3	7	0	0	0	2	12
	about right		2	13	36	12	15	9	26	113
Conservation Area Review	yes		3	13	25	6	9	6	20	82
	no		0	3	12	5	4	1	6	31