

Village Design Statement Consultation – Responses

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the recent VDS consultation. In total 59% of those completing the questionnaire agreed with 25 or more of the key design statements we tested, with a further 18% supporting between 20 – 24 of them. Only 7% of those surveyed supported fewer than 10 of the statements. The most popular statement, with 95% support, was “All new developments should ensure adequate off road parking” while the least with 63% support was “The use of plastic cladding should be discouraged”. A chart giving full details of the survey results can be found on our website.

More than half of respondents also provided additional comments. A few of these related to design issues which will be considered for possible inclusion in our VDS by the working group – although we have to ensure that recommendations in our VDS do not conflict with WCC’s Local Plan Part 2.

Many of the additional comments were less relevant for the VDS, although providing valuable feedback on community views. Several criticized the increase in housing in the village without any additional infrastructure, while others questioned the point of the VDS since Winchester’s planners have totally disregarded the existing VDS (published in 2000), the recommendations of the Parish Council and the preferences of the Community.

We sympathise with many of these views, however, the older a VDS, the less likely it is to be considered as significant to planners, so our updated VDS once approved by WCC will carry more weight in influencing planning decisions in the future.

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