

**Great Horwood  
Parish Council**

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## **Vale of Aylesbury Plan Great Horwood Community View**

As part of the process of preparing the Vale of Aylesbury Plan, Aylesbury Vale District Council Forward Plans Department requested answers to four questions as a Community View. In order to obtain this community view Great Horwood Parish Plan Steering Committee (on behalf of Great Horwood Parish Council) carried out a survey of all the households and businesses in the Parish in October 2011. The overall response rate to the household questionnaire measured by households was 65%. For the employers' consultation, a simpler set of questions (primarily focused on community factors in business success) was used. The questions were administered on a face-to-face or telephone or mail basis by a team of volunteers and a 77% response rate was achieved.

The results of these surveys are set out below and formed the basis of the submission that was made to AVDC by the Parish Council in December 2011. The actual document that was submitted to AVDC can be seen on the Parish Council website at [www.bucksinfo.net/greathorwoodpc](http://www.bucksinfo.net/greathorwoodpc) together with a PDF file which shows the full analysis of the results. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy you can get a printed version of either or both of these documents by contacting Karen Francis our Parish Clerk on 01296 712941.

### **So what did you tell us?**

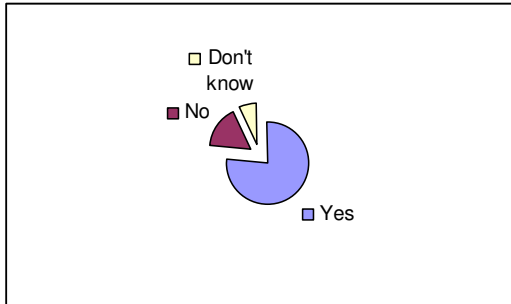
Overall, the view is of a community which is not afraid to look forward and which accepts that in a changing world it cannot stand still. Great Horwood recognises that some residential and employment development is likely between now and 2031 and that, if handled appropriately, it can benefit the community. Many residents express concern about possible loss of village character, even where they accept limited future development. Great Horwood residents are strongly attached to their community and are keen to retain the distinctive character and special features of the parish. It believes that by doing so Great Horwood will continue to thrive and to be a place where people want to live and, having arrived, to stay.

The following 3 pages present the community view in more detail.

## Homes

Would you be prepared to see more homes built in the village over the next 20 years?

Yes: 76% (195), No: 17% (43), Don't know: 7% (18)



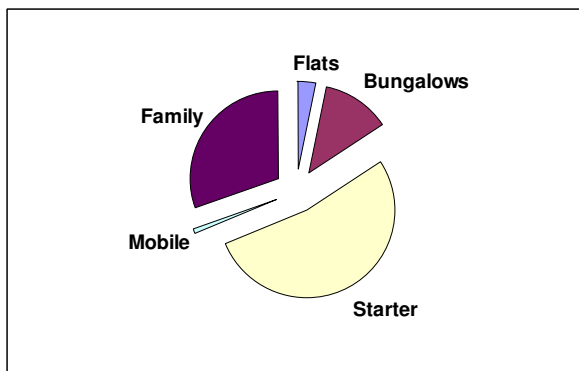
How many additional homes would you like to see built in the next 20 years?

You thought that up to 20 new homes would be appropriate if no new infrastructure was provided but up to 40 could be viable if additional facilities are provided.

Are there any specific types of homes that you think are particularly needed?

The top 3 suggestions were:

Starter homes: 54% (138)  
Family homes: 31% (80)  
Bungalows: 12% (32)



18% (46) of you said that you had members of your family who would like to live in the village but found prices difficult to afford and 68% (175) of you believe that additional housing should be made available in the village for persons with village connections who are unable to afford to live here. However only 49% (127) thought that additional affordable housing should be reserved for those with village connections and 37% (96) thought that any such housing should be open to others. Moreover, only 18% (46) thought that additional affordable housing should be reserved for those in specific occupations e.g. teaching and police, with the majority 66% (170) believing that such housing should not be

reserved. Additionally, 48% (123) of you responded that the best way to make new affordable housing available would be through shared ownership.

Are there particular locations that you think should or should not be developed?

There was very little consensus on where additional homes should be built. However 49% (126) thought any new homes should be built within the perimeter of the village as it is now and 30% (76) thought that the additional homes could be built outside the existing perimeter of the village.

The answers to the question about areas which should not be developed were too diverse to be classified. There is, however, one significant observation: that 7% (17) of respondents opposed development at the end of Spring Lane and gave traffic congestion as the reason.

**The answers to the following questions should also be noted:**

Are you in favour of large-scale development on the old airfield (like the 2008-09 "Winslow Green" proposal for 3,500 houses):

Against 85% (219), In favour 9% (23)

Do you believe that there should be a permanent gypsy / traveller site in the parish?

No 87% (225), Yes 5% (13)

Do you think the present Conservation Areas in Great Horwood and Singleborough should be changed?

Left Alone 70% (180)  
Enlarged 21% (54)  
Reduced or abolished 4% (10)

Do you think that the development should be phased (i.e. to happen in parts over several years) – if so how?

Evenly spread during the period 62% (161)  
More to begin with 10% (26)  
More later on 4% (11)

Are there particular types of infrastructure (social, community, physical) that your community believes it needs to enable this development to happen?

The 5 most popular answers were:

Bus service	69% (177)
High-speed broadband	66% (170)
Mains gas	57% (148)
Cycle paths	49% (127)
Services for the elderly	49% (127)

*Note – the Parish Council investigated the feasibility of getting mains gas into the village in 2008 and £310,000 was quoted just to bring mains gas to the village of Great Horwood with an added £1,100 installation cost for every household plus cost of appliance replacement.*

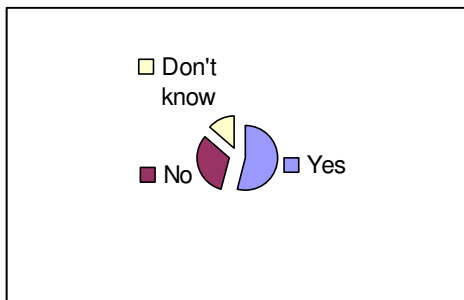
Are you prepared to see alternative commercial energy installations in the parish?

	Yes	No
Wind Farm (large turbines)	31% (79)	60% (153)
Solar Farm (photo-voltaic panels)	50% (129)	39% (99)
Anaerobic digester	19% (49)	64% (166)
Energy from Waste incinerator	12% (31)	72% (185)

## **Commercial/Industrial employers**

Are you prepared to accept some growth in the number of commercial / industrial employers in the parish over the next 20 years?

Yes: 52% (135), No: 31% (81), Don't know: 13% (33)



The consensus was that up to 10 new businesses would be acceptable in the parish and Service Operations were the most popular choice. Most thought that the introduction of the additional businesses should be evenly spread over the next 20 years.

What did the existing businesses in the parish tell us?

They are generally satisfied with the location but they need high speed broadband to assist them with the running of their business. Only 3 or 4 of those that responded were planning to expand their business. Some would like to see more houses built as they felt it would give them a greater customer base.