

# Parish neighbourhood plan

return this questionnaire and you could  
win one of 6 prizes of £25



You can return this later to post boxes at: the Parish Council Office, Rowney Green Village Hall, The Petrol Station at Hopwood, or the Library.

**Closing date 14<sup>th</sup> March:**

**Draw on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Alvechurch Village Hall-The Parish Annual Meeting.**

**PLEASE FILL IN THESE QUESTIONNAIRES. YOUR VIEWS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE A COMMUNITY BASED PLAN THAT WILL HAVE LEGAL STATUS IF VOTED IN AT AN ALVECHURCH PARISH REFERENDUM. OTHERWISE OUR PARISH WILL BE PURELY RELIANT ON THE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAN AND WE WILL HAVE NO SAY AT ALL.**

**FIND MORE ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OR GET MORE COPIES OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE BY VISITING ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, BEAR HILL, ALVECHURCH: 0121 447 8016. OR VISIT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WEB SITE AT [www.alvechurchparishplan.org](http://www.alvechurchparishplan.org)**

## **To be able to enter and qualify for the prize draw:**

**Please answer all questions and provide your name, address including Post Code and phone number. If you would like to be kept informed of progress of the Neighbourhood Plan please also provide your e-mail address.**

**If you prefer not to enter the draw however..... Just provide your name and post code when returning.**

Full Name /title\* .....

Age\* .... If under 18 state age here  18-60  61+  (over 18s tick box that applies to you)\*

Address 1 ..... Address 2 ..... Post Code\* .....

Email\* ..... Phone\* ..... **\*Required fields for draw**

By entering my personal information, I consent to receive email communications to keep me informed from the project group based on the information collected. **If you do not wish to be contacted by the project group please tick this box.**

No personal information will be used or passed on to third parties by the Neighbourhood Plan Project Team or Alvechurch Parish Council.

# Vision for the Parish

**“In 17 years’ time, Alvechurch Parish will be a more sustainable area exhibiting a high quality environment. It will value its inclusiveness, community involvement and culture and provide people with attractive facilities and access to open countryside. It will be a vibrant place where everyone can feel comfortable and secure”.**

Is this a suitable Vision for our Parish Plan to be based on? YES

NO

If NO; can you explain why? .....

From the Vision these core objectives listed below are intended to provide a positive framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made for the benefit of all our communities and will continue to ensure development will be as sustainable as possible throughout our Parish. Once agreed these objectives will lead to Policies for the draft Neighbourhood Plan which you will then be consulted on.

## CORE OBJECTIVES

**The plan should encourage:**

- 1 New house building** which meets the current and future needs of a changing and growing Alvechurch community, which encompasses high quality design and is suitable for both young and old accessing and downsizing in the housing market
- 2 Controlled housing development** usually in or adjacent to existing Alvechurch parish settlements, so that the purpose of the green belt is maintained across the parish and coalescence with nearby urban areas is prevented
- 3 Improved services, facilities and amenities** within Alvechurch parish, particularly in health, education, leisure and shopping, with good access to these promoting well-being in the changing and enlarged local community
- 4 A mix of local businesses** appropriate to the character of Alvechurch parish, serving the needs of local people, contributing to the wider economy and providing employment opportunities within the parish. Improved number and range of shops and personal services in Alvechurch village centre will be a key feature
- 5 A variety of leisure, cultural and sporting activities** for people across Alvechurch parish, with special emphasis on provision for young people, and the availability of community-use buildings and land to host these
- 6 An integrated public transport system** serving the growing and changing Alvechurch community well, based on safe roads and cycle routes, and effective traffic management
- 7 Protection of the natural and historic environment** in Alvechurch parish, in support of educational, recreational and conservation purposes, with improved access to the countryside for all including people with disabilities
- 8 Promotion of Environmentally Friendly Developments** in Alvechurch parish making best use of renewable energy sources and ensuring waste is managed effectively

Do these objectives form a good base from which to make policies for our Neighbourhood Plan? YES

NO

If No ..... How do you think they could be improved? .....

## 1 Questions and information relating to Housing

National policies mean that we may well have to build further houses in the Parish between 2021 and 2030. We probably have enough agreed sites for now until 2021. Please remember after all designated sites are used- **We only have Green Belt land left. So future housing after 2021 therefore will have to be built on some Green Belt land somewhere. So where do you think that should that be?** You can help decide: Should future housing be built next to existing housing, facilities and amenities? Or should future housing be spread around the small settlements extending into the Green Belt at various places?

*Option 1 would limit growth to places immediately adjacent to existing houses, thus giving the Green Belt some protection keeping openness between our settlements, whilst also giving some protection to the countryside.*

### Where should we build future Housing?

**1: We should build first on existing agreed sites, and should accept future growth on green belt only adjacent to current houses**

Please tick one option only

We should build first on existing agreed sites, and should accept long term growth on green belt only adjacent to current houses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

*Option 2 would mean every village/hamlet (Alvechurch, Hopwood, Rowney Green, Bordesley, Weatheroak, and Withybed Green) would have some future housing using some of the Green Belt.*

### Where should we build future Housing?

**2: We should apportion any housing growth across the settlements on limited green belt**

Please tick one option only

We should apportion any housing growth across the settlements on limited green belt	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

*Option 3 Would mean that the small settlements had little further house building, apart from limited infilling and rebuilds for very local people, leaving their character and form as they are*

### Where should future Housing be sited?

**3: We should release green belt land for future need mainly round the edges of Alvechurch village and not the smaller settlements**

Please tick one option only

We should release green belt land for future need mainly round the edges of Alvechurch village	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

*Option 4 would mean that if we have to use some Green Belt, we would only do so for developments that include small inexpensive homes, affordable and beneficial especially for the young and elderly. This would require a local up to date housing survey to establish evidenced based need. **Please bear in mind** that also some other open- market housing would be required to make such developments economically viable.*

### Where should we build future Housing?

**4: We should limit additional housing to small inexpensive houses if green belt has to be used**

Please tick one option only

We should limit additional housing to small inexpensive houses if green belt has to be used	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

## 2 Questions and information relating to Businesses and Jobs

Alvechurch Parish is historically working villages, not just commuter settlements. How much do we want to encourage **more** business for local jobs, saving on journeys and keeping the village alive? The main options are:

### 1. We should encourage more business into the parish for greater local employment opportunities

*This might mean accepting that some **new sites** are developed for businesses, traffic would have to be managed for these, and we do not see ourselves as just pretty commuter villages*

Please tick one option only

We should encourage more business into the parish for greater local employment opportunities	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment: -						

### 2. We should give up some green belt and other sites for business, to increase the local jobs available

*This would mean that some land which could be used for housing may be used for business instead  
Shortage of land could mean this could well be Green Belt land.*

Please tick one option only

We should give up some green belt and other sites for business, to increase the local jobs available	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

### 3. We should have a business development plan for Alvechurch village with some pedestrianisation and road changes round the centre

*The retail and office areas in the centre of Alvechurch could be developed further, but need an overall plan to ensure it meets local needs. One option is to have some sort of pedestrianised more vibrant centre to attract shoppers, with possible adjustments to the roads to aid deliveries and improve parking..*

Please tick one option only

We should have a business development plan for Alvechurch village with some pedestrianisation and road changes round the centre	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

### 4. We should encourage small scale rural employment in our smaller settlements, not just Alvechurch

*This means that we would encourage appropriate small businesses and diversification suitable to rural areas, in Rowney Green, Hopwood, Bordesley, Withybed and Weatheroak.*

Please tick one option only

We should encourage small scale rural employment in our smaller settlements, not just Alvechurch	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

### 3 Questions and information relating to the Countryside Environment

We have countryside of special landscape and wildlife value, but the environment doesn't look after itself. We have choices about how best to protect and develop it. The main options are:

#### **1: We should manage the environment in the best way for wildlife as well as people**

*This means we would prioritise positive countryside and woodland management that encouraged biodiversity and allowed plants, trees and animals to thrive. It may mean limiting some access, and accepting some untidiness!*

Please tick one option only

<b>We should manage the environment in the best way for wildlife as well as people</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

#### **2: We should improve public access to the countryside, including for people with limited mobility**

This means choosing some paths to be wheelchair (and pushchair)-accessible, replacing some stiles with gates, improving some surfaces, and looking at possible new paths. It may make parts of the country slightly less "wild".

Please tick one option only

<b>We should improve public access to the countryside, including for people with limited mobility</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

#### **3: We should use the countryside productively, for farming, sports or tourism**

*This means that more land should be economically viable: either farmed for animals or crops, or made available for: sports, walking, cycling, boating, fishing and other suitable leisure activities. It would help keep the Parish thriving, but may be less good for wildlife.*

Please tick one option only

<b>We should use the countryside productively, for farming, sports or tourism</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

#### **4: We should use more green and environmental technologies, including energy conservation, within the parish**

*This means using wind and solar power, underground heat sources, water saving, better insulation, cutting car use and other energy-heavy and polluting technologies, encouraging re-use and recycling (and cycling!) It may mean a rethink about what we value in the landscape.*

Please tick one option only

<b>We should use more green and environmental technologies, including energy conservation</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

#### **4 Questions and information relating to transport**

Many people in the Parish say that problems with transport affect their lives. Most are outside the powers or scope of the Parish Council, but we could press for changes, especially to accompany new developments. The main options are:

##### **1. We should press for improved public transport through better co-ordination of all transport methods**

*We have rail and bus services, but they do not connect, nor do they link well with cycling, walking and car use. Better siting of car parks, bus service changes, cycle parking and integrated timetables would help.*

Please tick one option only

<b>We should press for improved public transport through better co-ordination of all transport methods</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

##### **2. We should review car parking in Alvechurch village centre**

*This implies that we may have parking in the wrong places or for the wrong lengths of time or not enough of it, as many cars are parked inappropriately. Any new developments will make this worse. A full review should encourage better parking.*

Please tick one option only

<b>We should review car parking in Alvechurch village centre</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

##### **3. We should call for more cycle-ways and footways between settlements**

*This would mean having dedicated cycle tracks, and more surfaced footpaths, between Rowney Green, Hopwood, Bordesley and Alvechurch, to reduce car use. In some places this would be straightforward; where the roads are narrow it could be costly*

Please tick one option only

<b>We should call for more cycle-ways and footways between settlements</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

##### **4. We should work to improve traffic management across the Parish**

*This means reviewing: speed limits, traffic calming measures, roundabouts, one-way systems, no-parking zones, delivery bays, junction layouts, road markings and crossings for the benefit of residents, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians*

Please tick one option only

<b>We should work to improve traffic management across the Parish</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Comment:						

Thank you for completing this questionnaire,  
Don't forget to fill in your details on the front to enter the prize draw.  
You may attach an extra sheet of comments if you do not have room on this questionnaire.