

Responses to questions on the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan roadshow
NB These are interim figures and conclusions: they will be updated and a final report produced when all consultations have finished.

Comments and figures from Rowney Green are in black. Comments and figures from the Lounge are in red. Comments and figures from Alvechurch Baptist Church are in blue

NB The number of people responding is given in each section: it doesn't always match the number of ticks, especially at Rowney Green, as some people just made comments. At the Lounge and Baptist Church most respondents filled in every question. Sometimes comments were given separately.

Business and jobs

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
1. We need more business to come into the parish to give greater local employment opportunities						
Rowney Green answers (8)		5	1	2		
Lounge answers (23)	9	7	3	2	2	
Baptist Church answers (23)	3	14	4	1	1	
Comment: 1 - many businesses here already. 1 - especially cottage industries						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
2. To increase the number and type of jobs available we should be prepared to give up some green belt and other sites for business						
Rowney Green answers (5)					5	
Lounge answers (23)	1	10	5	3	4	
Baptist Church answers (23)	2	5	2	9	5	
Comment: 3 saying that green belt should be preserved if possible. 1 saying land to be split equally between housing and business, i.e. instead of some housing not as well as.						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
3. Alvechurch village centre would benefit from its own business development plan with options of some pedestrianisation and corresponding road changes round The Square and The Precinct						
Rowney Green answers (7)		1	2	3	1	
Lounge answers (23)	6	11	3	2		1
Baptist Church answers (23)	4	13	1	3	2	
Comment: 6, most saying that business development plan OK but not pedestrianisation. 4, one saying yes to business plan but not pedestrianisation, one saying try Shared Space, one suggesting one-way streets and change of junction, one strongly for pedestrian crossings 1 - only slight road widening needed						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
4. Small scale rural employment should be encouraged in the small settlements: Bordesley, Hopwood, Rowney Green, Weatheroak and Withybed Green						
Rowney Green answers (10)		5	2	1	2	
Lounge answers (23)	8	12	2	1		
Baptist Church answers (23)	3	15	2	2	1	
Comment: 2, saying business and buildings must be appropriate to the area						

Conclusion: There is some support for increasing local business even in small settlements. There is no agreement that any green belt land should be used. Rowney Green residents do not support pedestrianisation in Alvechurch. **Some Lounge customers are more positive about business development generally, especially in rural settlements, but results show a spread. They are very interested in the proposed pedestrianisation/ development of the centre of Alvechurch.** The Baptist Church group had similar responses to the Lounge, except they were more against giving up any green belt land for business.

Housing

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
1. Development first on existing ADRs –further growth after 2030 on green belt immediately adjacent to existing settlements						
Rowney Green answers (9)	5	2		1		
Lounge answers (23)	11	7	3	2		
Baptist Church answers (23)	6	15	1	1		
Comment: 4 saying protect all green belt, one saying “this part” of green belt is very valuable, one saying no decisions about post-2030 should be made, one that access to amenities and public transport are essential, one that brownfield sites should all be used first. One saying scale and type important 1 patchworking had advantages						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
2. Further parish growth should be apportioned equally across the settlements on limited green belt sites						
Rowney Green answers (9)	1			3	5	
Lounge answers (23)	5	6	6	5	1	
Baptist Church answers (23)	3	11	2	3	3	1
Comment: 5 saying green belt should be fully protected, 2 saying appropriate infrastructure is needed. One saying this will keep our environment as rural as possible						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
3. Greenbelt land released for future need should be mainly round the edges of Alvechurch village						
Rowney Green answers (8)		3			4	
Lounge answers (23)	4	4	6	4	5	
Baptist Church answers (23)	1	9	3	5	5	
Comment: 3 saying no building on green belt, 2 saying not till all brown field sites gone 1 where will we find sufficient land?						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
4. Additional housing limited to small inexpensive houses if green belt has to be used						
Rowney Green answers (5)		2		2	1	
Lounge answers (23)	9	7	5	1	1	
Baptist Church answers (23)	6	12	1		4	
Comment: 3 saying not on green belt. One saying housing should be appropriate to need. One saying this "very definitely" 1 a mix is better						

Conclusion: Many people do not accept the premise that some green belt land may have to be released and just repeat that it should be preserved. Some do not realise we don't have brown field sites. However, there is some indication that limited development around settlements, especially Alvechurch, may be acceptable, especially for small houses. The Lounge customers have a wide spread of views about housing, but many support building small houses. The Baptist Church ones are similar, and specifically mention housing for the elderly..

A separate comment is concerned that it is a done deal that Redditch will expand into the sites adjacent to the A441 in exchange for building the Bordesley bypass.

There is one separate comment saying that house building in Alvechurch is spoiling the traditional aura of the village, especially affordable housing and the people who live there. Another says the national housing shortage needs action.

Several participants at the Baptist Church sessions stressed the need for housing for the elderly

Countryside environment

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
1. Environment should be managed in the best way for wildlife as well as people						
Rowney Green answers (12)	11	1				
Lounge answers (23)	12	10	1			
Baptist Church answers (23)	10	10	2	1		
Comment: 2 emphasising the importance of habitat and ecology, 3 preserving the green belt (not the question!) 1 don't we already?						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
2. Improve public access to the countryside including for people with limited mobility						
Rowney Green answers (6)	3	1		2		
Lounge answers (23)	5	15	1	2		
Baptist Church answers (23)	5	15	2			1
Comment: one suggesting it would make wild countryside too country-park like. One saying specific appropriate routes eg towpath						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
3. We should use the countryside productively for farming, sport or tourism						
Rowney Green answers (6)	2	3	1			
Lounge answers (23)	5	9	5	4		
Baptist Church answers (23)	9	10	4			
Comment: 2 saying that proper development of land in a balanced way is important, one saying yes but not tourism. One saying maintain current balance, one saying "definitely"						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
4. More use of green and environmental technologies/ energy conservation						
Rowney Green answers (8)	5		2		1	
Lounge answers (20)	9	7	4	2		1
Baptist Church answers (23)	5	12	3	1		2
Comment: 3 emphasising the importance of this, one saying but solar panels contradict design statement. One saying yes but not wind or solar power! One with reservations re scale 1 our stewardship of the planet is at stake						

Conclusion: There is overwhelming support for keeping the countryside wildlife-friendly, though some people confuse this with green belt. Generally people support farming and other appropriate use. There are mixed views on improving access to the countryside. Most people support more use of green technology and energy conservation, some very strongly. The answers from the Lounge are more mixed, though more positive about disability access. Most support more use of green technology and using the countryside productively. The Baptist Church responses are similar, but with stronger support for using the countryside productively, and there is not quite such overwhelming support for wildlife.

Transport

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
1. Public transport needs improvement through better co-ordination of all transport methods						
Rowney Green answers (4)		4				
Lounge answers (23)	14	8				1
Baptist Church answers (23)	13	10				
Comment: 8, 4 emphasising need to link bus with rail services. One saying already being addressed. Bus could be replaced by taxi firm offering more flexible service. More than one bus a day needed. Give priority to improving rail services. (some of these comments were in the wrong section) One saying we don't need more, but better.						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
2. Car parking in Alvechurch village centre needs review						
Rowney Green answers (4)	1	2		1		
Lounge answers (23)	8	6	7	1		1
Baptist Church answers (23)	4	12	6	1		
Comment: 3, saying restrictions need to be enforced, security improved, and another car park would help, one saying it works OK 1 expanding parking space is needed						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
3. More cycleways and footways between the settlements						
Rowney Green answers (9)	4	3	1			1
Lounge answers (23)	6	12	4	1		
Baptist Church answers (23)	7	13	2			1
Comment: 2 saying cycling should be encouraged, 3 saying footpaths need improving						

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
4. Traffic management across the parish needs improving						
Rowney Green answers (7)	2	2				
Lounge answers (23)	5	12	3	2		1
Baptist Church answers (23)	8	10	3	2		
Comment: traffic calming needed in Rowney. Speed restrictions needed in Rowney and Grange Lane. Redditch Road needs to be slowed down and have better footpath. Stop HGV using Holloway. One saying difficult to see how. (Some comments in this section have been moved to (1) above as they are about public transport.) One: not to improve, but we still need a plan 1 seems generally in order						

Conclusion: There is some confusion about what traffic management means, but people are concerned about speeding both through Rowney and on the main road. There is strong support for improving public transport: more than the one daily bus and better connections with the train service. Generally better footpaths and support for cyclists are supported. Car parking in Alvechurch is not a big issue but there is some comment about bad enforcement of existing restrictions. **The Lounge answers were quite spread but most agreed with the improvements suggested, except possibly the car park review, and the Baptist Church answers were similar.**

There is one separate comment about the state of verges round the village, especially Lower Rowney Green, Gravel Pit Lane, making it difficult to walk around the lanes. [One at the Baptist church stressed the need to stop speeding.](#)

General conclusion so far

It is interesting how similar the results from the Lounge and Baptist Church sessions, both in Alvechurch Village, are. Both included predominantly Alvechurch village residents, but also some people who lived outside and worked in the village.

In the housing questions, there was one pair of options that we have not communicated clearly. These were that:

2. Further parish growth should be apportioned equally across the settlements on limited green belt sites
3. Greenbelt land released for future need should be mainly round the edges of Alvechurch village

Several respondents ticked both of these, whereas they are really mutually exclusive. These responses need to be treated with caution.