

1 Population, Housing and Health

Census data has been reviewed and summarised. Only data for Huxley and Foulk Stapleford parishes is available from the Census, these are taken as representative of Bruen Stapleford, Burton and Hatton.

1.1 Population

The 2011 Census data for the Area is given first. It is then compared with that for the local authority ward, Tattenhall; then the unitary authority of Cheshire West and Chester (**CWaC**); and, where appropriate, with national figures (England and Wales). The 3 latter sets of figures are courtesy of CWaC and are found in the Appendices.

All comparisons are made on the basis of the percentages (%). The total population residing in the CWaC area (approximately 91,666 hectares) is 329,608. The main residential area is the city of **Chester** (population 81,000+) but other large conurbations are **Ellesmere Port** (population 60,000+), and **Winsford** (population 30,000). These constitute the key urban areas in CWaC's Local Plan. The remainder of the area is classified as **Rural** and includes the subject area of this plan: Central Gowy (South).

The Local Plan's summary of the Rural Area states:

“A third of the borough's residents live in the rural area that runs from Neston in the north, which borders Wirral, to the boundary with Shropshire in the south. The rural area in the south is more sparsely populated and many of the settlements, especially in the north, are effectively dormitory settlements that are dependent on larger towns for employment opportunities. Car use is generally very high and isolation

and access to services is an issue for some rural residents. The rural area is generally affluent with higher than average household incomes and higher levels of academic qualifications.

Although agriculture employs few people, it makes a very significant contribution to the character of the borough, habitats and the environment. The character of the rural area is also defined by the network of settlements that provide rural residents with services and facilities. The population in the rural area is generally older than other parts of Cheshire West and house prices are higher.”

A summary of the 2011 Census data is given in Table 2 for population numbers and Table 4 & Table 5 for housing.

Table 1 Population

	Huxley		Fouk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Number of residents	251		161		412		329608	0.12%
Males	119	47.4%	71	44.1%	190	46%		
Females	132	52.6%	90	55.9%	222	54%		
Living in a household	251	100%	161	100%	412	100%		
Living in a communal establishment	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%		
Area (Hectares)	629.2		539		1168		91666	
Density (number of persons per ha)	0.40		0.3		0.35		3.60	

Table 2 Population Data from Residents Questionnaire

	Male	Female	Total
Aged over 70	21	30	51
Aged less than 70 but over 50	54	42	96
Aged less than 50 but over 25	24	32	56
Aged less than 25 but over 10	29	22	51
Aged 10 and under	14	9	23
In full time education	33	26	59
In part time education	1	2	3
In full time employment	46	24	70
In part time employment	46	20	35
Working from home	19	18	37
Retired	31	38	69
Unemployed	0	2	2
With mobility difficulties	5	4	9
Total Numbers	142	269	411

The skew in the number of females in the area compared with males is not supported by the information obtained in the responses to the questionnaire distributed to all residents in 2014. This suggests a much more even balance between the sexes - perhaps partly explained by the larger number of boys under 10 years old than girls (14 versus 9).

The average density of Fouk Stapleford and Huxley combined is 0.35 persons per hectare. Fouk Stapleford and Huxley are rural, with small populations dispersed over a large area, but they are also the most populated settlements in the Area. The number of persons per hectare in the Area is therefore less than 0.3.

The population per hectare in the Area is less than 0.3, and this is less than one twelfth the average population density of the authority.

The NDP area represents a very small proportion of CWaC as a whole and is sparsely populated even when compared with the average for the borough. The objective of the NDP will be to maintain that characteristic.

A more detailed analysis of the Area's population is included in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**, the data include age profiles country of origin, ethnicity, religion domestic relationships and educational/professional qualifications. Data is also provided for the local ward (Tattenhall), the borough (CWaC) and for England and Wales. The key conclusions are:

- While the proportion of the population aged less than 16 is similar to elsewhere, there are fewer adults aged under 45 but more between 45 and 75. The proportion of the population aged over 75 is less than elsewhere.
- There are fewer single, separated, divorced and widowed people in the Area. There are more married couples.
- There are more people living in a couple in the Area, and more of them are married.
- The residents of the Area are predominantly from the UK, were born here, are predominantly (though by no means entirely) white and Christian, with English as their first language.
- The residents of the Area have more level 4 and above qualifications than elsewhere.

The following section describes the properties in the Area and compares them with Cheshire West and Chester as a whole.

1.2 Housing

The following section describes the properties in the Area and compares them with Cheshire West and Chester as a whole.

Table 3 Types of Property (1)

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Total Number of Dwellings	98		70		168		147568	
Unshared Dwellings	98	100%	70	100%	168	100%		
Detached Properties	67	68.4%	56	80%	123	73%	43673	29.6%
Semi-detached Properties	19	19.4%	12	17.1%	31	18%	52927	35.9%
Terraced Properties	10	10.2%	0	0%	10	6%	32082	21.7%
Flats, Maisonettes or Apartments	1	1%	2	2.9%	3	2%	18045	12.2%
Caravans or temporary dwellings	1	1.0%	0	0%	1	1%	1019	0.7%
Unoccupied Dwellings	5	5.1%	2	2.9%	7	4%	6304	4.3%

There are a significantly greater proportion of detached properties within the Area than in the CWaC district as a whole. As a result the proportions of semi-detached and terraced properties are smaller. The number of flats or apartments in the area is very small.

Comparisons can also be made with the figures for the Tattenhall Ward as well as with CWaC and the nation as a whole. That produces the summary given in Table 5.

Table 4 Types of Property (2)

	The Area	Tattenhall Ward	CWaC	National
Total number of Occupied Dwellings	95.8%	95.7%	95.7%	95.6%
Detached Properties	73.2%	50.9%	29.6%	22.6%
Semi-detached Properties	18.5%	31.4%	35.8%	30.7%
Terraced Properties	6%	12.6%	21.7%	24.7%
Flats, Maisonettes or Apartments	1.6%	4.9%	12.2%	21.6%
Caravans & Temporary Dwellings	0.6%	0.2%	0.7%	0.4%

Property sizes are shown in Table 6. The majority of properties in the area are relatively large with over 50% having 7 or more rooms. *(A 7-room property equates to a standard 3-bedroom house with a family bathroom, a kitchen and 2 reception rooms.)*

Table 5 Property Size

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined	
No of Households	93		68		161	

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined	
1 Room	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
2 Rooms	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
3 Rooms	1	1%	2	2.9%	3	1.9%
4 Rooms	5	5.4%	2	2.9%	7	4.3%
5 Rooms	15	16.1%	6	8.8%	21	13.0%
6 Rooms	15	16.1%	9	13.2%	24	14.9%
7 Rooms	9	9.7%	11	16.2%	20	12.4%
8 Rooms	17	18.3%	10	14.7%	27	16.8%
9 or more rooms	31	33.3%	28	41.2%	59	36.6%

Table 6 Ownership

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined	
No of Households	93		68		161	
Private Ownership	76	81.7%	56	82.4%	132	82.0%
Owned Outright	45	59.2%	36	64.3%	81	61.4%
Owned with mortgage or loan	31	40.8%	20	35.7%	51	38.6%
Shared Ownership (part owned/part rented)	1	1.1%	0	0%	1	0.6%
Total Socially Rented	1	1.1%	3	4.4%	4	2.5%
Rented from Council	1	100%	0	0%	1	25.0%
Other	0	0%	3	100%	3	75.0%
Total Privately Rented	11	11.8%	6	8.8%	17	12.9%
Rented from Private Landlord or Letting Agency	9	81.8%	4	66.7%	13	76.5%
Rented from Employer or Household Member	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Rented from Relative or Friend	1	9.1%	0	0%	1	5.9%
Rented from Other	1	9.1%	2	33.3%	3	17.6%
Living Rent Free	4	4.3%	3	4.4%	7	5.3%

The majority of houses in the area are privately owned (82%) with more than 60% of those being mortgage free. Some property is occupied on a rent-free basis - presumably by members of an extended family - otherwise the balance of occupancy is as tenancies from private landlords.

Occupancy can be gauged from the data in Table 8. This shows a significant number of 2-person households (40%) reflecting the relatively high numbers of older parents whose children have now left home.

Nearly 17% of property owners live on their own. This is a lower figure than in Tattenhall ward (25.6%), CWaC (29.6% and nationally (30.2%). Of those living alone, the majority (approximately 60%) are aged 65 or over. Otherwise most (77%) of properties are family owned. This figure is rather higher than the national average (51.2%) and is higher than that for the Tattenhall ward (70.4%)

Table 7 Occupancy

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined	
No of Households	93		68		161	
1 person in household	14	15.1%	13	19.1%	27	16.8%
2 persons in household	40	43.0%	34	50%	74	46.0%
3 persons in household	14	15.1%	8	11.8%	22	13.7%
4 persons in household	16	17.2%	10	14.7%	26	16.1%
5 persons in household	3	3.2%	2	2.9%	5	3.1%

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined	
6 persons in household	6	6.5%	1	1.5%	7	4.3%
7 persons in household	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
8 persons or more in household	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

Table 9 lists the proportion of properties installed with central heating.

Table 8 Properties with Central Heating

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined	
No of Households	93		68		161	
No Central Heating	3	3.2%	1	1.5%	4	2.5%
Gas Central Heating	13	14.0%	6	8.8%	19	11.8%
Electric Central heating	3	3.2%	3	4.4%	6	3.7%
Oil Central Heating	55	59.1%	52	76.5%	107	66.5%
Solid Fuel Central Heating	3	3.2%	1	1.5%	4	2.5%
Other Central Heating	1	1.1%	0	0%	1	0.6%
Two or more types of Central Heating	15	16.1%	5	7.4%	20	12.4%

Almost all properties are centrally heated with oil being the most common source of energy. This is hardly surprising since mains gas is only available in a very limited portion of the area.

The structure of individual households is described in Table 10 & Table 11.

Table 9 Demographics

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined	
No of Households	93		68		161	
Single Person	14	15.1%	13	19.1%	27	16.8%
Aged 65 and over	10	71.4%	6	46.2%	16	59.3%
Other	4	28.6%	7	53.8%	11	40.7%
Single Family	73	78.5%	51	75.0%	124	77.0%
All aged 65 and older	11	15.1%	16	31.4%	27	21.8%
Married/Civil Partnership/Cohabiting	55	75.3%	34	66.7%	89	71.8%
Lone Parent	7	9.6%	1	2.0%	8	6.5%
Other Household Types	6	6.5%	3	4.4%	9	5.6%
With Dependent Children	4	66.7%	1	33.3%	5	55.6%
All Full-time Students	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	2	33.3%	2	66.7%	4	44.4%

Table 10 Dependent Children

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWaC	
No of Households with dependent children	30		14		44		39085	0.11%
One Family only	26	86.7%	13	92.9%	39	88.6%	36688	93.9%
Married or Same-sex Civil Partnership	21	80.8%	12	92.3%	33	84.6%	21976	59.9%
Cohabiting	2	7.7%	0	0%	2	5.1%	5641	15.4%
Lone Parent	3	11.5%	1	7.7%	4	10.3%	9071	24.7%
All Other Households with Dependent Children	4	13.3%	1	7.1%	5	11.4%	2397	6.1%

The majority of children are being brought up in two-parent households. Nearly 85% of children have two parents in a permanent relationship. This is significantly higher than the district (and the nation) where the percentage is only approximately 60%.

1.3 Health

A detailed analysis of the health of the Area's population is in Appendix **Error! Reference source not found.** The key conclusions are:

- The residents of the Area rate their health slightly better than the wider area.
- There are a slightly lower number of people with long term health issues or disabilities.
- There are fewer people between the ages of 16 and 64 whose day to day activities are limited by long term health issues or disabilities.
- There are a slightly higher number of carers paid for 1 to 19 hours of care per week.
- There are no communal establishments in the Area.

2 Employment

This Section considers the local population in terms of their social mix and employment and the sectors they work in, based again on 2011 Census data. Where appropriate this has been supplemented by information obtained in response to the questionnaire distributed to all local residents (see Appendix A.1).

Socio-economic Classification

Table 11 Socio-economic Classification

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Number of Residents (aged 16 to 74)	189		137	(130)	326		243155	0.1%
Higher Management	37	19.6%	23	16.8%	60	18%	29109	12%
Professional	20	10.6%	15	10.9%	35	11%	22131	9.1%
Lower Management/Professional	43	22.7%	35	25.5%	78	24%	54169	22.3%
Intermediate Level	23	12.2%	17	12.4%	40	12%	30076	12.4%
Small Employer & Own Account	36	19%	29	21.2%	65	20%	20978	8.6%
Lower Supervisory/Technical	7	3.7%	6	4.4%	13	4%	20083	8.3%
Routine/Semi-routine occupations	9	4.8%	11	8%	20	6%	35208	14.5%

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Long Term Unemployed	0	0%	1	0.7%	1	0%	9021	3.7%
Student	14	7.4%	0	0%	14	4%	18541	7.6%

Note: There is a reporting anomaly in the data for Foulk Stapleford: the number of residents reported as being within each of the listed categories when added together sum to more than the given total number of residents (130). For the sake of accuracy in determining the percentage distribution between the categories, a total of 137 residents has been used

The number of residents in the Area provides a very small contribution to the total for Cheshire West and Chester (being only 0.13% - i.e. 1/800th of the total). It is also apparent that the local population has a much greater proportion of adults who declare themselves as being professionals or in senior management.

Also striking is the number listed as self-employed. At 28% this is approximately 2.5 times that for the borough as a whole and agrees very well with the feedback from the Questionnaire that suggested 25% of residents as working from home. This is probably at least partly attributable to the fact that farming forms a major component of the economy of the Area. There is very little unemployment within the working population.

Economic Activity - Males

Table 12 Male Employment

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Number of males (aged 16 to 74)	93		57		150		119291	0.1%
Part Time	4	4.3%	4	7%	8	5%	6990	5.9%
Full Time	41	44.1%	17	29.8%	58	39%	58455	49%
Self Employed	27	29%	22	38.6%	49	33%	14972	12.5%
Unemployed	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5522	4.6%
Full-Time Student	4	4.3%	0	0%	4	3%	3450	2.9%
Retired	13	14%	10	17.5%	23	15%	17494	14.7%
Economically inactive student	4	4.3%	3	5.3%	7	5%	5133	4.3%
Looking after home/family	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	814	0.7%
Long-Term Sick/Disabled	0	0%	1	1.7%	1	1%	4930	4.1%
Other economically inactive	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1531	1.3%
Have Never Worked	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	606	0.5%

Unemployment throughout the area is not a significant problem. By and large the distribution of males within the various economic activities echo those for Cheshire West and Chester as a whole, with the notable exception that the proportion of self-employed men is substantially higher than the CWaC average (33% to 12%). Even the percentage of retired men is only slightly greater than the wider area.

Economic Activity - Females
Table 13 Female Employment

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Number of females (aged 16 to 74)	96		73		169		123864	0.1%
Part Time	22	22.9%	14	19.2%	36	21%	29216	23.6%
Full Time	17	17.7%	21	28.8%	38	22%	37187	30%
Self Employed	17	17.7%	13	17.8%	30	18%	6884	5.6%
Unemployed	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%	3427	2.8%
Full-Time Student	5	5.2%	1	1.4%	6	4%	4675	3.8%
Retired	20	20.8%	17	23.3%	37	22%	22399	18.1%
Economically inactive student	1	1%	4	5.5%	5	3%	5613	4.5%
Looking after home/family	11	11.5%	2	2.7%	13	8%	7806	6.3%
Long-Term Sick/Disabled	2	2.1%	0	0%	2	1%	4644	3.7%
Other economically inactive	0	0%	1	1.4%	1	1%	2013	1.6%
Have Never Worked	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	422	0.3%

The comments for female employment are similar to those for male. As with the men, unemployment in those who are seeking work is low. Similarly it is the proportion of those that are self-employed that is the notable difference from the wider CWaC area.

Economic Activity - All

Table 14 Economic Activity

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWaC	
(Household Reference/All) persons (aged 16 to 74)	189		130		319		243155	
Economically Active	138	73.02 %	92	70.77 %	230	72%	170778	70.23 %
a) Part Time	26	18.84 %	18	19.57 %	44	19%	36206	221.20 %
b) Full Time	58	42.03 %	38	41.30 %	96	42%	95642	56.00 %
c) Self Employed with Employees	18	13.04 %	15	16.30 %	33	14%	5616	3.29%
d) Self Employed without Employees	26	18.84 %	20	21.74 %	46	20%	16240	9.51%
e) Unemployed	1	0.72%	0	0.00%	1	0%	8949	5.24%
f) Full-Time Student	9	6.52%	1	1.09%	10	4%	8125	4.76%
Economically Inactive persons	51	26.98 %	38	29.23 %	89	28%	72377	39.77 %

Note: The census data for Huxley and Foulk Stapleford differ in referring to "Household Reference Persons" in the case of Huxley and "All Persons" for Foulk Stapleford. The difference seems to be that the Huxley data does not include that for females. This does not appear to offer useful data. Accordingly the Huxley figures

have been adjusted to include the data for female employment and the comparison made with the CWaC figures for "all persons".

This approach is believed to be arguably robust.

The economically active population within the Area is 72% - only slightly up on the 70.23% for Cheshire West and Chester as a whole.

Of the 28% that are listed as being economically inactive, 68% (the majority) are retired from active employment and of the remaining 32%, equal proportions are either looking after the home and family on a full-time basis or are studying. A very small proportion (approximately 1% of all residents) suffer long-term sickness or are sufficiently disabled to prevent them from working.

The major difference between Gowy Central (South) and CWaC is in the number of self-employed. In total these amount to 34% of the working population (compared with 13% in CWaC as a whole). It can also be noted that approximately 40% of those that are self-employed employ others - thus contributing to the wider economy. This contrasts with the CWaC ratio being nearer to 1 in 4.

Hours Worked

Table 15 Hours Worked

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Number of Residents (aged 16 to 74)	136		92		228		160138	0.1%
15 hours or less	22	16.2%	8	8.7%	30	13%	15902	9.9%
16 to 30 hours	21	15.4%	18	19.6%	39	17%	32408	20.2%
31 to 48 hours	60	44.1%	40	43.5%	100	44%	91529	57.2%
49 or more hours	33	24.3%	26	28.3%	59	26%	20299	12.7%

The percentages of part-time and full-time employed people in the Area is similar to those in the wider CWaC area being approximately 30%: 70%. Where there is a significant difference is in the proportion of those working full time and putting in more than a 40-hour working week. Nearly 40% of “full-time” workers in the Area work long hours compared with less than 20% in the wider area.

This may reflect the hours needed to devote to farming which is a major contributor to the economy of the Area as noted above, and the high proportion of self-employed and management/professional residents of the Area.

Unemployment

As already noted, unemployment is not widespread in the Area so does not pose a problem to be addressed in the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the area.

Sectors

Table 16 Industry

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Number of Residents (aged 16 to 74)	136		92		228		160138	0.1%
Agriculture	8	5.9%	12	13%	20	9%	1978	1.2%
Mining/Quarrying	1	0.7%	0	0%	1	0%	459	0.3%
Manufacture	11	8.1%	6	6.5%	17	7%	18485	11.5%
Energy	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	845	0.5%
Water Supply	0	0%	1	1.1%	1	0%	1475	0.9%
Construction	13	9.6%	12	13%	25	11%	10220	6.4%
Wholesale/Retail/Motor Repair	28	20.6%	8	8.7%	36	16%	27313	17.1%
Transport & Storage	3	2.2%	1	1.1%	4	2%	6779	4.2%
Accommodation/Food Services	9	6.6%	2	2.2%	11	5%	9483	5.9%
Information/Communications	5	3.7%	4	4.3%	9	4%	4993	3.1%
Financial/Insurance	3	2.2%	3	3.3%	6	3%	7914	4.9%
Real Estate	5	3.7%	3	3.3%	8	4%	2127	1.3%
Professional/Scientific/Technical	12	8.8%	7	7.6%	19	8%	11390	7.1%
Administration/Support	5	3.7%	6	6.5%	11	5%	7504	4.7%

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Public Administration/Defence	5	3.7%	5	5.4%	10	4%	7860	4.9%
Education	9	6.6%	3	3.3%	12	5%	15373	9.6%
Health & Social Work	7	5.1%	13	14.1%	20	9%	18915	11.8%
Arts/Entertainment	12	8.8%	6	6.5%	18	8%	6888	4.3%

Residents in the NDP Area have a wide range of employment in common with the wider Cheshire West and Chester area. The significant difference is the figure for agriculture that clearly illustrates the importance of farming in the Area. The number of agricultural holdings in the area is shown on Plan 12 – *Agricultural Holdings*. This shows more than 30 agricultural units, the vast majority of which remain actively farmed. The other exceptions, for which there is no obvious explanation, are the 11% interest in construction, significantly higher than the wider CWaC area, and the 5% engaged in Education, which is significantly lower.

3 Infrastructure

The Area enjoys a number of factors that all contribute to the general experience of residents living in the area.

Key to this is the general character of the Area that defines the context within which all residents reside. It reflects the sparse, rural nature of the area and the habitats in which our flora and fauna flourish. It is a rural area within the Cheshire Plain and the importance of the countryside character was clearly demonstrated in the responses to the questionnaire distributed to all residents. (See section **Error! Reference source not found.**).

Approximately 90% of respondents to the survey rated the openness, space and peace of the rural environment as being of very or extreme importance to their wellbeing. A dark night sky free from the pollutant of street lighting was rated as being very important to three out of every four residents with less than 1% saying that it didn't matter. It is clear that it is the rural nature of the area that is the overriding attraction to all residents. Landscape, local character and the environment are described in Section 5.

Another aspect, however, is the overall living experience within the Area. This is not simply confined to the benefits of residing within an open countryside. Facilities matter and these are discussed more fully in this section.

3.1 Transport

Plan 7 – *Designated Transport Links*, illustrates the pattern of lanes and highways that serve the area. Essentially they are unclassified roads that link the communities within the area and also link with the A41 to the west and the A49 and A51 to the north and east. These important local arterial roads provide the main corridors for traffic into and out of Chester and provide the main links with the National motorway/trunk-road system. As such they form important routes within the national highway network and are heavily used by heavy goods traffic. Many of these 'A'-roads have been de-trunked, and the local highway authority has used its entitlement to impose traffic speed limits through the built-up areas that have grown up along these essential corridors. This is understandable as being driven by pressure from the local residents but it slows through traffic and encourages those familiar with the area to seek the freer alternative 'rat-runs' through the unrestricted country lanes.



Figure 1 Typical Lane 1

The lanes are of limited capacity. As well as providing for motorised traffic they are also used by pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. They are essential for physical communication between the residents of the area. They are also important to members of the public who are not resident but who avail themselves of the area for leisure purposes. Plan 8 – *Recreational Footpaths and Cycle-ways*, illustrates the network of footpaths criss-crossing the area and shows the lanes designated as cycle-ways both locally (CWaC) and nationally. Most weekends, the Area hosts an increasing number of cycling groups taking advantage of the provision. Horse riding is a pass-time enjoyed by a significant number of residents in the area (approximately 30%). The lanes are regularly used for the exercise of horses.



Figure 2 Inappropriate Line Markings

Despite this multifarious use of the lanes, the highway authority has marked and signed them to the almost sole benefit of vehicular traffic. Centre-line marking is common and motorists are encouraged to believe the left side of the lane is theirs and theirs alone. Inevitably this leads to speeds higher than might be more reasonably considered appropriate.



Figure 3 Hargrave

Within the area there are limited lengths of pavement running alongside the lanes through the more densely populated settlements. In Hargrave there is a length of pavement in front of the church and in front of the ribbon of houses facing the church. In Huxley a length of pavement is provided along the north side of Huxley Lane from Green Farm until the Village Hall where it switches to the south side up to the T-junction. A pavement is then provided along the east side of Church Lane between the T-junction and the school. Otherwise pedestrians are expected to use the trafficked lanes.



Figure 4 Huxley

It is possible to control traffic speed by the setting of mandatory speed limits - but this is only effective if properly policed. A 40 mph zone has been established in Huxley within the settlement area.

Traffic speed is much more effectively determined by road conditions – in particular highway geometry and space. There can be no greater deterrent to excessive speed than the fear of meeting another vehicle approaching from the opposite direction along the same corridor as the one that you are occupying. Similarly the presence of other road users promotes caution. It is for this reason that many urban authorities are considering initiating mixed usage at city junctions with

pedestrians and traffic intermingling. It sounds counter-intuitive, but it works: drivers are generally very reluctant to wilfully run someone over! Road side parking also slows traffic and one only has to experience the difficulties in driving through the adjacent villages of Tattenhall and Tarporley to recognise the constraint to speed given by parked cars. Such solutions may not, however, be practical along all our country lanes. Rather the lanes should be configured to the benefit of ALL users and not just the driver. This can be achieved by managing and configuring the lanes to provide space for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians as well as for motor traffic, but must be done in ways which are suitable for a rural area where heavily “engineered” solutions are inappropriate. Such a philosophy is described in the literature for ‘Quiet Lanes’. The Parish Councils should be encouraged to lobby CWaC for the implementation of Quiet Lanes throughout the rural area. A speed limit of 40 mph should then be established on all unclassified roads unless signed to the contrary (where higher or lower speeds might be sought). By properly implementing such a policy, road signage could be reduced thus relieving visual clutter and improving the experience for all travelling through the area. Another benefit would be that traffic is kept away from the road edge so avoiding damage to the paved surface and reducing potholing. The result would bring financial benefits through reduced maintenance and provide a better ride quality for cyclists. While it is important to cater for all when equipping our lanes there can be no denying the importance of the private car to all residents within a rural community. 93% of residents responding to the questionnaire stated that a private car was essential to their daily lives (see Figure 17). The only alternative

to driving is to cycle or walk – both healthy alternatives but not always practical when shopping or travelling longer distances. In the Area public transport is limited. Plan 7 – *Designated Transport Links*, shows the bus routes through the area. There is a 2-hourly service between Tattenhall and Chester (the 41A service) that passes along Red Lane and Long Lane at the bottom of Huxley Lane before travelling along Mill Lane through Hargrave to continue along Long Lane to Chester. It can be hailed at any point along its route, but a designated bus-stop is only provided in the centre of Hargrave at the church. It is a valued service and it is gratifying to note that more than 50% of residents stated that it was either extremely or very important to them. However it is of limited use to any other than those who live on or near its route. The T-junction at the top of Huxley Lane is more than 1.0 km from its route – so it cannot be considered as an easily accessed service to those residents. On the other hand many Huxley residents together with those in Burton are limited to the single bus into and out of Chester once a week. So it is unsurprising that residents rely heavily on their private cars.

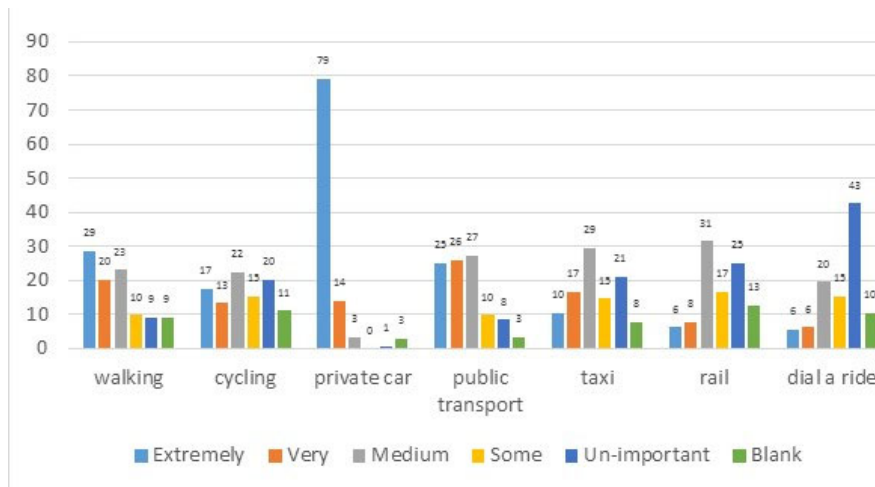


Figure 5 Residents Questionnaire Results for Transport Needs

The residents' questionnaire showed that 93% of respondents stated that a private car was essential for daily living - not just "important", a car is "essential". This is particularly so since the opportunities for local employment are limited. The majority of residents in employment and those wishing to shop will need to travel into Chester or further afield. Chester is 8 miles away.

Table 17 Car / Van Availability

	Huxley		Fouk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
No of Households	93		68		161		141442	0.1%
Total No of cars/Vans	202	2.17	135	1.99	337	2.09	188557	1.33

	Huxley		Fouk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Zero cars/vans per household	6	6.4%	3	4.4%	9	6%	26297	18.6%
1 No Car/van per household	19	20.4%	19	27.9%	38	24%	58893	41.6%
2 No car/van per household	39	41.9%	29	42.6%	68	42%	43561	30.8%
3 No car/van per household	16	17.2%	12	17.6%	28	17%	9580	6.8%
4 No or more cars/vans per household	13	14%	5	7.3%	18	11%	3111	2.2%

Car ownership in the rural area is an essential rather than a luxury. It is of no surprise that the average number of cars per household in the area is in excess of two (as opposed to the average in the whole of Cheshire West and Chester of 1.33).

Table 18 Method of Travel to Work

	Huxley		Fouk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
No of Residents (aged 16 to 74)	189		130		319		243155	0.1%
Work from Home	27	14.4%	19	14.6%	46	14%	9450	3.9%
Metro/Light Rail/Tram	1	0.5%	0	0%	1	0%	263	0.1%
Train	2	1.1%	2	1.5%	4	1%	3262	1.3%
Bus	1	0.5%	1	0.8%	2	1%	5566	2.3%

	Huxley		Fouk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Taxi	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	871	0.3%
Motorcycle	0	0%	2	1.5%	2	1%	1033	0.4%
Car/Van	84	44.4%	62	47.7%	146	46%	109464	45.0%
Passenger in private vehicle	6	3.2%	1	0.8%	7	2%	8947	3.7%
Bicycle	0	0%	1	0.8%	1	0%	4284	1.8%
Foot	12	6.3%	4	3.1%	16	5%	15987	6.6%
Any other	3	1.6%	0	0%	3	1%	1011	0.4%
Not in employment	53	28%	38	29.2%	91	29%	83017	34.1%

If those who work from home or that are not in employment are excluded, the proportion relying on a private car (either driving or as a passenger) to get to work leaps up to 84%. There are few alternative options.

3.2 Traffic

Surveys over the last decade or more have shown that the volume of traffic using the lanes in the Area is increasing significantly. This has been exacerbated by the growth in the adjacent villages of Tarvin, Tattenhall and Tarporley and by the peak-time delays and the imposition of speed limits along the surrounding main roads.

The route along Guy Lane provides a convenient link between the A51 at Duddon and the A41 in Waverton; while Huxley Lane and Long Lane provide a convenient 'rat-run' between Tarporley and Chester. It is also a factor that, while Tarporley and Tarvin are served by the A51 (despite being bypassed), Tattenhall is set in the middle of the Cheshire Plain some distance from the A41, A51 or the A49. The village relies upon local country lanes for access. These include the route along Huxley Lane and Red Lane for traffic connecting with the A51 and along Red Lane and Long Lane for traffic to Chester.

Informal Counts

April 2007

Mid-week survey

Vehicles per hour between (approx.)	Number of vehicles (in one direction)
07.30 to 08.30	106
12.20 to 13.20	58
17.10 to 18.10	77

September 2005

Vehicles per hour between (approx.)	Number of vehicles
07.12 to 08.25	97
10.10 to 13.29	51
16.05 to 17.36	77

December 2003

Mid-week survey

Vehicles per hour between (approx.)	Number of vehicles
07.00 to 08.30	66
17.00 to 18.30	77

Informal counts on Huxley Lane in 2003, 2005 and 2007 provide hourly one-way traffic figures in the morning peak of 44 vehicles per hour (vph), 80 vph and 106 vph (see tables above). This represents a growth in traffic of nearly 150% in 4 years. The surveys were not scientifically conducted but do illustrate the problem – a problem that is only going to get worse with the identification of Tarvin, Tattenhall and Tarporley as Key Service Centres in the CWaC Local Plan and the housing growth that has been allocated to those centres in that plan.

A more formal traffic survey was made on 12th June 2014 at key junctions along the lanes between 07.00 hours and 19.00 hours in accordance with highway authority procedures. A full description of the survey and its results is given in Appendix **Error! Reference source not found.** The resulting traffic figures in terms of Annualised Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows along the more important lanes are shown in Plan 9 – *Traffic – AADT Flows @ 12.06.14.*

The pressure on Huxley Lane is obvious with daily traffic now approaching 3,000 vehicles per day. During the am peak two-way traffic volume exceeds 300 vph – 150 vph each way. Compare this with the earlier ‘unofficial’ figures recorded above and it is clear that growth continues unabated. Traffic has doubled in 10 years. Should such growth continue over the

lifetime of this NDP, traffic along Huxley Lane will have reached 9,000 vehicles per day (vpd) with peak flows being as much as 900 vph. This has been raised as a concern by residents. Implementation of a Quiet Lanes proposal as discussed in the Transport section above offers the best available solution. While falling outside the strict remit of a Neighbourhood Development Plan, the promotion of such a policy should become a priority for the Parish Council. CWaC already have the powers to mandate a Quiet Lane scheme and should be lobbied by the Parish Council (in alliance with others similarly affected) to exercise that power.

3.3 Utilities

The NDP Area is rural and the dispersed location of properties means that the provisions of public utilities are limited.

Electricity

Due to the rural nature of our area, electricity is supplied and distributed throughout via a network of poles and overhead high voltage cables with very little cabling diverted underground. The response from the survey shows an obvious need for electricity in the area as would be expected

Water utilities

Two companies provide water services throughout the area. Dee Valley provides for Hatton with United Utilities covering the remaining Parishes.

However due to the sparsely populated parishes there is no provision for mains foul drainage or waste water.

Mains Gas

There is no mains gas supply available for any of the properties throughout the area.

Although the provisions of the above utilities are limited, responses to the survey show no great desire for either mains drainage or gas and residents are satisfied with what they have at present.

Heating Oil

Without the provision of mains gas, oil is the main fuel used for heating with 81% of respondents rating it as important to their household

Telephone and Broadband

At present broadband speeds across the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan are very slow (see connecting Cheshire website).

From the responses to the survey 93% of respondents thought that the provision of faster broadband was of major importance. With 25% of respondents working from home, businesses throughout the area and numerous others reliant on broadband, as a key means of communication in a rural area, the aspiration for high speed broadband needs to be pursued.

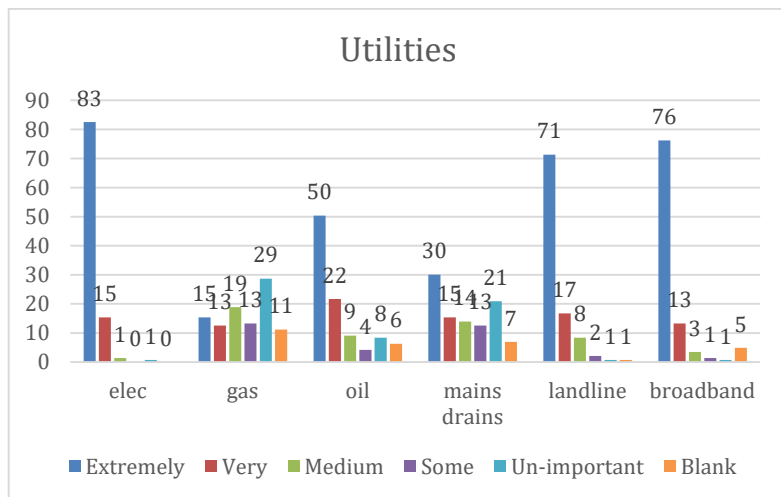


Figure 6 Survey Results for Utilities

3.4 Leisure

The Area provides an enjoyable experience for all who pass through it. It epitomises the Cheshire countryside and is attractive to many who are not residents. It is relatively close to the conurbations of Chester, Liverpool and Manchester and provides a welcome breath of fresh air for residents of those metropolises.

The lanes are reasonably flat and have been identified as being ideal for cycling; both National and Local cycle routes are signed through the area (see *Plan 8 – Recreational Footpaths and Cycleways*). Weekends see a multitude of cycling groups enjoying the open road.

Walking too is popular. The area is criss-crossed with public footpaths and rights of way as shown in *Plan 8*. Generally they

are well marked and reasonably maintained – so access is simple.

Equestrianism is popular. Cheshire prides itself as being an “Equestrian County” and markets itself accordingly. Many residents maintain paddocks and small fields for grazing together with stables and several have established ménages. The Cheshire Hunt meets in the area during winter months and many farmers open their lands to the hunt.

A notable feature passing through the area is the Shropshire Union Canal. Built initially as a commercial operation linking Birmingham and Chester, the canal is now mainly a recreational facility. Narrow boats ply the route regularly and moorings are available both at the new marina in Newton-by-Tattenhall and at Golden Nook. The canal tow path forms a convenient footpath and permits a traffic-free route into Chester. The canal is also used for fishing and competitions regularly feature.

The bowling green in Hargrave is used by the local Bowling Club and regularly hosts visiting clubs.

Otherwise the residents of Hargrave and Huxley are socially active. They have a thriving Women’s Institute, regular Film Nights, historical society and the annual Happy Days (village fete and other events) are held on the last weekend in June and the organising group hold various fund raising events throughout the year. The funds raised are distributed to the Church and other charities.

4 Commercial Activities

There are essentially two types of businesses in the area: being either agriculture related or in the service sector.

In the first category there are, of course, the farms themselves. Dairy farming probably predominates but there are also arable units producing corn and silage as well as farms concentrating on beef, sheep, pigs (gilts) and chickens (eggs). Also falling within this sector is the abattoir that serves the area and beyond and Walk Mill – a restored water mill grinding its own flour and producing bakery products. It is also a visitor attraction providing guided tours.

Service sector activities range from the manned public domestic waste collection site, through the retail sector (TG Builders Merchants) to leisure and catering. In the latter group there is the Public House in Huxley currently undergoing rebuilding. Formerly the Farmer's Arms this is proposed to reopen as the Inn at Huxley. There is also a Bed & Breakfast business at Higher Huxley Hall.

It has been noted before that a significant proportion of the residential population (approximately 25%) is self-employed. The table below provides the data obtained from the 2011 census.

Table 19 Commercial Activities

	Huxley		Foulk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Number of Residents ¹	136		92		228		16013	0.14 %
Agriculture	8	5.88 %	12	13.04 %	20	9%	1978	1.24 %
Mining/Quarrying	1	0.74 %	0	0.00 %	1	0%	459	0.29 %
Manufacture	11	8.09 %	6	6.52 %	17	7%	18485	11.54 %
Energy	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0%	845	0.53 %
Water Supply	0	0.00 %	1	1.09 %	1	0%	1475	0.92 %
Construction	13	9.56 %	12	13.04 %	25	11%	10220	6.38 %
Wholesale/Retail/Motor Repair	28	20.59 %	8	8.70 %	36	16%	27313	17.06 %
Transport & Storage	3	2.21 %	1	1.09 %	4	2%	6779	4.23 %
Accommodation/Food Services	9	6.62 %	2	2.17 %	11	5%	9483	5.92 %
Information/Communications	5	3.68 %	4	4.35 %	9	4%	4993	3.12 %

¹ Aged 16 to 74

	Huxley		Fouk Stapleford		Combined		CWAC	
Financial/Insurance	3	2.21 %	3	3.26 %	6	3%	7914	4.94 %
Real Estate	5	3.68 %	3	3.26 %	8	4%	2127	1.33 %
Professional/Scientific/Technical	12	8.82 %	7	7.61 %	19	8%	11390	7.11 %
Administration/Support	5	3.68 %	6	6.52 %	11	5%	7504	4.69 %
Public Administration/Defence	5	3.68 %	5	5.43 %	10	4%	7860	4.91 %
Education	9	6.62 %	3	3.26 %	12	5%	15373	9.60 %
Health & Social Work	7	5.15 %	13	14.13 %	20	9%	18915	11.81 %
Arts/Entertainment	12	8.82 %	6	6.52 %	18	8%	6888	4.30 %

Table 15 shows that 9% rely on agriculture and are probably farmers. That still leaves 16% that operate within other businesses.

Farms are diversifying and many now simply rent their fields to other farmers while converting their farm buildings for other use. This may include barn conversions to either residential or as holiday lets or putting them out for storage. At Golden Nook there are established linear moorings for more than one hundred

recreational narrow boats (this is in addition to the 300 boat marina established at Tattenhall Works).

There is no manufacturing carried out within the area. There is an interior design business at the Moss: "No 77 Designs" and there is a Business Centre providing office space along the A41. Otherwise it can be anticipated that much of the self-employed work from home and will fall within the construction sector's 11% (small builders) with the remainder offering professional advice such as financial services, technical services, Real Estate services etc.

To succeed, all these small businesses will rely on access to the world-wide-web and e-mail service providers. To that end a high-speed broadband connection is essential – and is something that the area does not enjoy. Old-fashioned wire connection is the norm with the resulting low-speed (and capacity) the further one is away from the exchange. High-speed broadband is essential and Connecting Cheshire must be lobbied hard to include the Huxley exchange (01829 781xxx numbers) in their programme for upgrading to a fibre-optic service.

It can be expected that the trend to working from home will continue to grow. Electronic communications must be improved.

5 Communications

In common with the rest of the Country (and the World) the digital age is essential within Central Gowy (South). Despite this, more traditional forms of communication remain important.

Within the Hargrave and Huxley area (that now includes much of the original parish of Hatton), the Parish Council maintains notice boards for displaying public notices and a monthly Newsletter is distributed to all residents to advise them of forthcoming events of interest to the community.

The Parish Council also maintains a web-site:

www.hargraveandhuxleyipc.org.uk that is managed by the Parish Clerk (email: huxleyclerk@gmail.com).

Although mobile phone use is widespread, the land-line telephone system remains vital to the majority of residents. Its importance can be gauged from the response to the questionnaire (see figure 10.1 and section 3.2). Unfortunately, the current service remains as a copper wire system and upgrading to fibre-optics is a priority requirement for all residents. Broadband use is high and down/up-loading speeds are extremely poor throughout the area with those remote from the local exchange units suffering the most. It is a subject of considerable complaint by residents and Connecting Cheshire are being lobbied to improve the service. As has been remarked on elsewhere, the area contains a significant number of self-employed people so it is unsurprising that broadband is considered as very/extremely important to approximately 90% of the community (see Figure 18).

Otherwise word-of-mouth remains a valuable mechanism for distributing news and the area enjoys a healthy level of

community involvement at a social level. This is to be encouraged at every level.

Appendices

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A. Community Engagement Results

A.1 Questionnaire Analysis Report

Executive Summary

The results of the questionnaire can be summarised as follows –

- Around 90% think the open countryside and environment in which they live is very or extremely

important; this is similar to the percentages for essential services such as electricity, broadband and the private car.

- All the community facilities are regarded as significantly less important, (62-42% very or extremely important), than the open countryside.
- Housing need is less important still, (22-30% very or extremely important), with higher percentages saying it is unimportant to them (36 and 31%).

Conclusions

Our area is designated as ‘open countryside’, 90% of respondents said that the open natural environment is extremely important to them. Other aspects of the natural environment considered within the questionnaire were rated within the most important areas of interest (peace & quiet, natural habitats). Maintaining the natural environment therefore needs to be at the forefront of policy. Development should therefore not impact on the natural environment and open, rural character of the area. These findings support the local plan policies STRAT 8 and STRAT 9 which strictly limit development.

All types of housing needs considered were shown to be the least important topic to residents. This again supports the local plan policies which restrict development in open countryside. Community facilities include the village halls, and school; these were rated as important by the majority and therefore should be maintained. Recreational activities involving walking and cycling received high numbers of ratings of importance,

therefore it is important that we retain our extensive network of existing public rights of way.

A significant number of people work from home, this linked to the rating of importance of broadband suggests a need for the policy to support improvement to this amenity

Introduction

Background

Huxley Parish Council is leading the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Central Gowy (South). This is the designation of the area covering Bruen Stapleford, Burton, Foulk Stapleford, Hatton, and Huxley. The NDP development is being led by an action group formed of representatives from each area. The action group set about information gathering in order to develop a plan that suits the residents. A questionnaire was developed as part of this information gathering. This report is concerned with this aspect and sets out the methodology and results of the process.

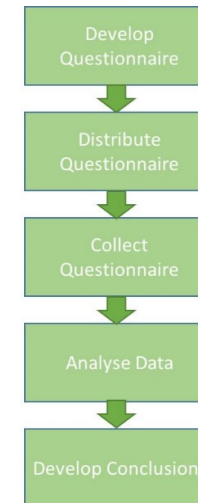
Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the questionnaire are to establish a good understanding of what is important and conversely not important to the residents, as well as to gain a picture of the demographic.

All information gathered is to be used to inform the development of the neighbourhood development plan and its policies. The results of the questionnaire will form part of the evidence base for the plan.

Methodology

The following method was used to establish an understanding of matters important to the residents of the Central Gowy (South) Neighbourhood Development Plan area.



The following sections detail the approach for each of these stages.

Questionnaire Development

A questionnaire was developed and distributed to all residents in the neighbourhood development plan area. The questionnaire was formed of two parts, Part 1 for personal data, and Part 2 for areas of interest. A full copy of the questionnaire which was circulated can be found at Appendix 1.

Part 1 - Personal Data

Residents were asked to identify the number of people within their household against a series of criteria, including gender, age, employment status and mobility issues.

Part 2 - Areas of Interest

Various areas of interest were identified, many sourced at a residents meeting where ideas were put forward.

Specific topics under the headings of:

- Natural Environment,
- Managed Environment,
- Recreational Activities,
- Community and Social Facilities,
- Commercial Needs,
- Utilities,
- Transport Needs, and
- Housing needs,

were included to be rated on a scale of importance. Residents were asked to assess the importance of the various topics and score them on a scale of 1 to 5, where "1" indicated that the topic is unimportant as far as they are concerned, whereas "5" meant that the topic is extremely important or essential to their well-being.

The questionnaire was drafted and shared with our CWaC contact for comments on approach and style in January 2014.

Questionnaire Distribution

The questionnaires were distributed to all residents within the area, in March 2014. Where possible the village representatives distributed the questionnaires by hand, offering some background information on the purpose of the questionnaires

and the ultimate use of their responses. The Questionnaire was supported by a flyer giving a brief introduction to the neighbourhood plan process. A copy of the flyer that was provided can be found at appendix 2.

Questionnaire Data Collection

Questionnaires were collected by village representatives by the 16th March 2014.

There was a 57% response rate; 143 of approximately 250 households in the area responded. Response rate based on population was similar, 58% (411 out of 702). Where response rates were low additional effort was made to improve it, such as carrying out another round of collection.

The data from each area was entered into a spreadsheet, and then collated to show a combined result.

Data Analysis & Review

Two main sets of data were derived from the questionnaires, the first is the population data, the second the assessment of the importance of various topics of interest. The raw data can be found at appendix 3.

For the population data, a table showing the count of occupants fitting various group descriptions was compiled.

For the topics of interest, the most important items rated as 'extremely important' and items rated the least important as 'unimportant' were collated.

A further detailed assessment was then carried out for each topic of interest; a chart showing the percentage of responses against each importance scoring was generated, in order to show the spread of importance of any topics to the residents.

Trends in the data were then used to develop conclusions.

Results

Population Data

The following data was collected on the demographic of the area.

Table 20 Population Data Results

	Male	Female	Total
Aged over 70	21	30	51
Aged less than 70 but over 50	54	42	96
Aged less than 50 but over 25	24	32	56
Aged less than 25 but over 10	29	22	51
Aged 10 and under	14	9	23
In full time education	33	26	59
In part time education	1	2	3
In full time employment	46	24	70
In part time employment	46	20	35
Working from home	19	18	37
Retired	31	38	69
Unemployed	0	2	2
With mobility difficulties	5	4	9
Total Numbers	142	269	411

There is a peak in the number of people between the ages of 50 and 70 (23% of the population), with a good spread in the other age groups. Fourteen percent of people fall into the 25 to 50 age category.

There is a similar number of people who are in full time employment as retired (17% of the population each). There is also a high number of people in full time education (59%). Showing the population is made up predominantly of a mixture of working families, and retired people. There are very few people who are unemployed (less than 1%).

There is a significant number of people working from home (9% of the population).

Mobility does not appear to be a significant issue, with only 2% of people responding noting this as applicable to them.

Most Important Topics

The following tables present the top topics highlighted by the questionnaire responses.

The first table shows the most important topics that were rated as extremely important to residents, and the second table shows the least important topics rated as unimportant.

Table 21 Most important topics - rated as extremely important

Number of respondents rating topic as extremely important	Topic	Count	Percentage
More than 100	Electricity	118	83
	Private car	113	79
	Broadband	109	76
	Open, rural landscape	103	72
	Landline	102	71
More than 90	Peace and quiet	95	66
	Space	92	66
More than 80	Natural habitats	88	62
	Farming	85	59
	Oil	72	50

The table above shows the topics that are of utmost importance to the majority of residents. Several topics were rated as extremely important by more than 100 people,

accounting for in excess of 70% of responses. Topics of extreme importance largely fall into the categories of utilities and the natural environment. Transport and commercial activities also featured.

Table 22 Least important topics - rated as unimportant

Number of respondents rating topic as unimportant	Topic	Count	Percentage
More than 60	Dial a ride	61	43
More than 50	Starter homes	52	36
More than 40	Affordable homes	45	31
	Retirement homes	45	31
	Gas	41	29
More than 30	Equestrian	37	26
	Rail	36	25
	Mains drains	30	21
	Taxi	30	21

The table above shows the topics a large proportion of residents of the neighbourhood plan area thought to be unimportant to them. The use of a dial-a-ride service was shown to be unimportant to 43% of the residents. More than a third of responses rated housing needs (starter homes, affordable homes or retirement homes) as unimportant. Some specific utilities were rated as unimportant by large numbers, especially the use of gas and mains drains which are not available to the majority of homes in the area.

Total Importance

The following graph displays all the importance levels (Some and higher) 'above the line', No Importance 'below the line', and the ("Net") difference in a list to the right.

This graph shows the overall steer towards important or not, but does not give extra weight to any level of Importance rating.

Importance, order by Total Importance (% by category, excluding 'no response')



■ None ■ Some ■ Moderately ■ Very ■ Extremely

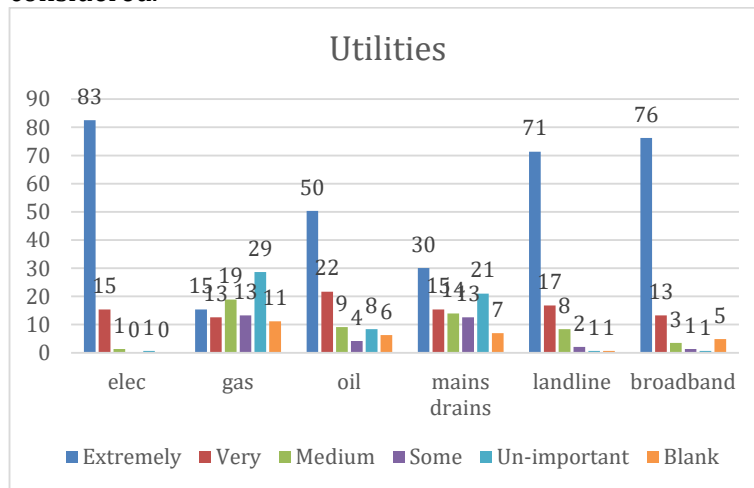
* % saying at least Some minus % saying None

Detailed Assessment of Topics for the whole area

The following sections provide detailed graphs showing the results of responses as raw data for each topic area. Each area of interest is considered in detail, starting with the topics which appeared most in the 'most important'. The figures shown on the bar charts are percentages.

Utilities

Electricity, broadband and landline all appeared within the most important list of items that residents rated as extremely important. The following graph shows the distribution of the ratings of importance for the utilities considered.

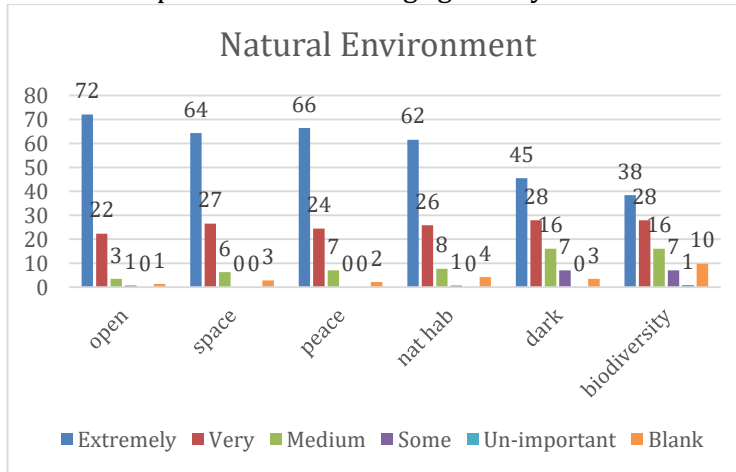


The most significantly important utilities, receiving the most ratings of extreme importance included electricity, broadband, and telephone landline.

There was a varied response for gas, with 29% saying it was unimportant, and 60% saying it had at least some importance; similarly the response for mains drainage was mixed, 21% saying it is unimportant and 72% saying it has some importance. These mixed views are likely to be due to varying availability of services.

Natural Environment

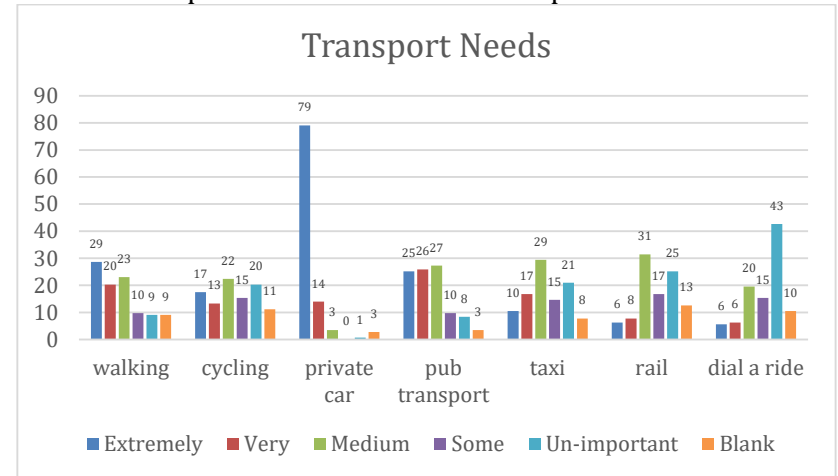
The open rural landscape, peace and quiet and space all ranked in the most important topics. The graph below shows the spread of the rankings given by residents.



All topics under the heading of natural environment were shown to be of some importance to the residents; there were no instances of people rating these topics as being unimportant. Over 90% of respondents rated the open natural environment as very to extremely important. Over 80% rated the topics of space, peace and quiet and natural habitats as very to extremely important to them. Over 70% of people rated dark night skies as very or extremely important, with a further 23% rating it as having at least some importance to them.

Transport Needs

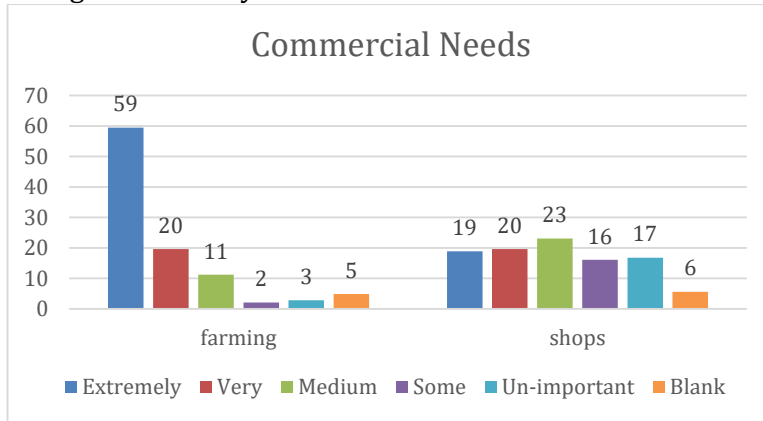
The use of private cars appeared high in the most important topics. Other transport needs were varied. The graph below shows the percentage of people rating various transport means with levels of importance.



The use of the private car for transport has by far the most significant importance to residents of the area, 79% of people rated as extremely important, 97% rated it as having at least some importance. Other significant modes of transport include public transport and walking, being rated as having some importance to over 80% of residents. Dial a ride appeared as the top concern rated as unimportant by 43% of respondents.

Commercial Needs

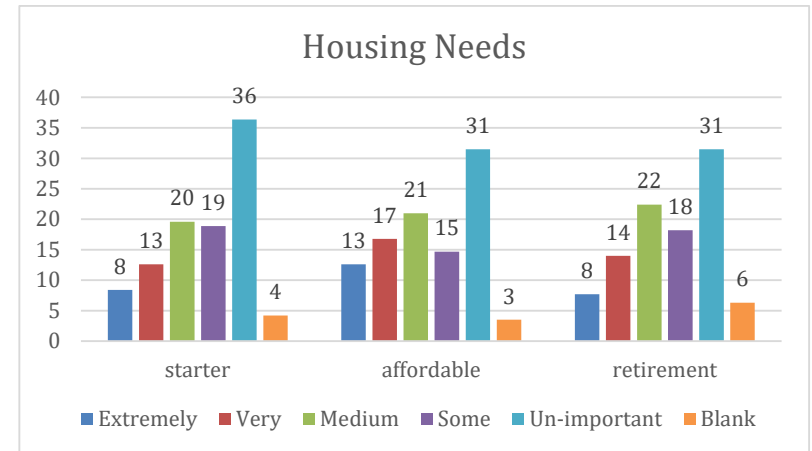
The most significant of commercial needs was shown to be farming. The graph below shows the importance ratings awarded by residents.



The main commercial enterprises in the area are farming or shops. Farming was shown to be of significant importance, over 90% of residents rated it as having some importance, 59% said it was extremely important to them.

Housing

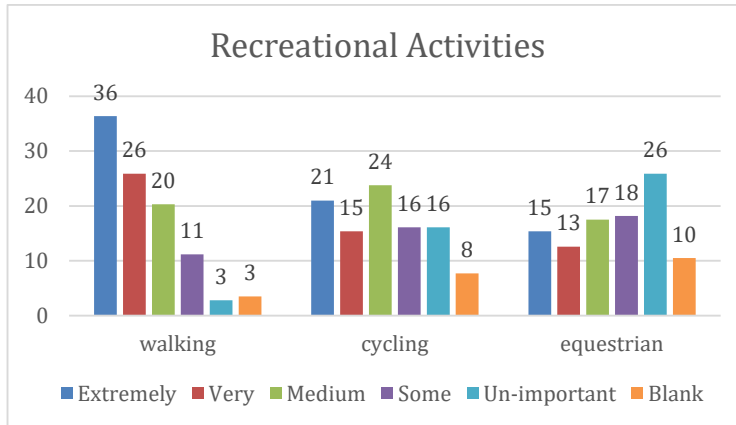
Housing appeared in the least important topics.



The number of people rating housing needs as having importance or not was mixed. Housing needs received some of the largest level of response for un-importance across all the topics considered, with more than 30% of people saying it was unimportant to them. Those regarding Housing needs as very or extremely important were significantly lower than other concerns; 21% for starter, 30% for affordable and 22% for retirement.

Recreational Activities

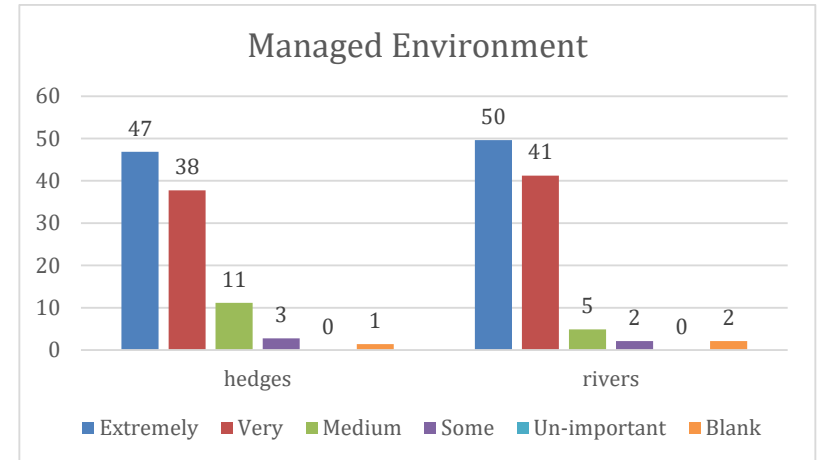
Walking, cycling and equestrian recreational activities were considered.



Those regarding Recreational activities as very or extremely important were significantly lower than the Top 10 concerns; 62% for walking, 36% cycling and 28% equestrian.

Managed Environment

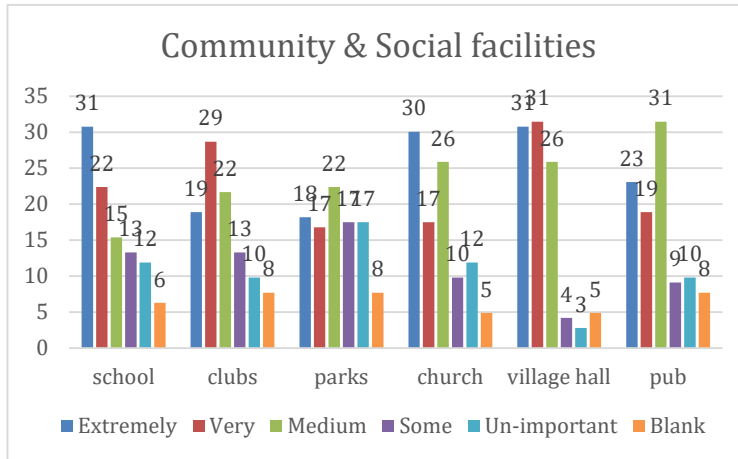
The managed environment of hedges and rivers in the area were considered.



All residents rated the managed hedgerow, and river environments as having some importance. 91% of people rated rivers as very to extremely important, and 85% rated the same for hedges.

Community & Social Facilities

There are numerous community and social facilities in the area.



There are various community and social facilities within the area, particularly within the villages of Huxley and Hargrave.

Those regarding Community or Social Facilities as very or extremely important were significantly lower than the Top 10 concerns; 62% for village halls, 53% school, 48% clubs, 47% church and 42% pub.

Conclusions

Our area is designated as 'open countryside', 90% of respondents said that the open natural environment is extremely important to them. Other aspects of the natural environment considered within the questionnaire were rated within the most important areas of interest (peace & quiet, natural habitats). Maintaining the natural environment therefore needs to be at the forefront of policy. Development should therefore not impact on the natural environment and open, rural character of the area. These findings support the local plan policies STRAT 8 and STRAT 9 which strictly limit development.

All types of housing needs considered were shown to be the least important topic to residents. This again supports the local plan policies which restrict development in open countryside.

Community facilities include the village halls, and school; these were rated as important by the majority and therefore should be maintained. Recreational activities involving walking and cycling received high numbers of ratings of importance, therefore it is important that we retain our extensive network of existing public rights of way.

A significant number of people work from home, this linked to the rating of importance of broadband suggests a need for the policy to support improvement to this amenity.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Questionnaire

Central Gowy (South) Neighbourhood Development Plan Resident Consultation Questionnaire

Your Voice

A Neighbourhood Development Plan is being prepared for the area that includes your property/business. This will be an important document that must be taken into by the planning authority when considering planning applications in the area. We need to ensure that it covers all the points that are important to YOU. To assist us in making the plan as effective as possible we are asking for information. By completing this questionnaire you will be contributing to your Neighbourhood Plan. PLEASE help us.

This questionnaire will be collected by your Village Representative before 16th March

Part 1 – Personal Data

The following information will help us to inform the demographic make-up of our local communities. This will help us to formulate policies that will support matters that are important to you. We can assure you that the information you supply will be used solely for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Once that plan is made (anticipated to be in early 2015) the information will be destroyed. At no time will any of the information supplied by you be given to any third party that is not involved in the preparation of the plan. If you do not wish to provide any personal information please be aware that you are not obliged to (and we will respect that).

Name:			
Address:			
Postcode:			
Number of occupants:	Male	Female	
Aged over 70			
Aged less than 70 but over 50			
Aged less than 50 but over 25			
Aged less than 25 but over 10			
Aged 10 and under			
In full time education			
In part time education			
In full time employment			
In part time employment			
Working from home			
Retired			
Unemployed			
With mobility difficulties			

Part 2 – Concerns

This part of the questionnaire is intended to inform us of the topics that most concern you as a resident. Various topics have been identified and we would be grateful if you would assess their importance to you in a scale of 1 to 5 where "1" indicates that the topic is unimportant as far as you are concerned whereas "5" means that the topic is extremely important or essential to your well-being. Please circle to indicate what you believe most appropriate for your own circumstances.

If you consider that there are other topics of concern to you that have not been covered in the prepared list, you are free to insert that concern and rate it as described above.

Topic	Importance				
	Unimportant	Some importance	Medium importance	Very important	Extremely important
Natural Environment					
Open, rural landscape	1	2	3	4	5
Space	1	2	3	4	5
Peace and quiet	1	2	3	4	5
Natural habitats	1	2	3	4	5
Dark night sky	1	2	3	4	5
Biodiversity	1	2	3	4	5
Managed Environment					
Hedges	1	2	3	4	5
Rivers & streams	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational Activities					
Walking	1	2	3	4	5
Cycling	1	2	3	4	5
Equestrian	1	2	3	4	5
Community & Social facilities					
School	1	2	3	4	5
Clubs and societies	1	2	3	4	5
Parks / playing fields	1	2	3	4	5
Church	1	2	3	4	5
Village halls	1	2	3	4	5
Pub	1	2	3	4	5
Commercial needs					
Farming	1	2	3	4	5
Shops	1	2	3	4	5
Utilities					
Electricity	1	2	3	4	5
Gas	1	2	3	4	5
Oil	1	2	3	4	5
Mains drainage	1	2	3	4	5
Telephone landline	1	2	3	4	5
Broadband	1	2	3	4	5
Transport needs					
Walking	1	2	3	4	5
Cycling	1	2	3	4	5
Private car	1	2	3	4	5
Public transport	1	2	3	4	5
Taxi	1	2	3	4	5
Rail	1	2	3	4	5
Dial a ride	1	2	3	4	5
Housing needs					
Starter homes	1	2	3	4	5
Affordable homes	1	2	3	4	5
Retirement homes	1	2	3	4	5
Other (add as appropriate)					

Appendix 2 - Supporting Flyer

Your Local Neighbourhood Development Plan

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

Neighbourhood Development Plans are a new initiative under the 2011 Localism Act. They empower communities to have a real say over how development provided for in the Cheshire West & Chester Local plan should be realised in their area. The plan will define policies to protect features of the neighbourhood that are of value to the residents, and help ensure any development is sympathetic to that.

Once made, a Neighbourhood Plan MUST be recognised by the Planning Authorities when responding to any development application. This means that any development in your area should only be in accordance with the accepted views of local people.

Why do we need one?

These plans give us the chance as residents to have a say. Our villages are important to us, this helps make sure we get the right sort of development for us. The plan will be developed based on the views of local residents, and when made it will look to be as prescriptive as possible in fixing potential development sites and will define key details that must be incorporated into their design.

Who is involved?

The Central Gowy (south) Neighbourhood Development Plan will cover the parishes of Bruen Stapleford, Burton, Foulk Stapleford, Hatton and Huxley. An Action Group has been formed that includes representatives of each of the local communities within the area. All residents will be consulted to better understand the issues that are important to them.

How can I get involved?

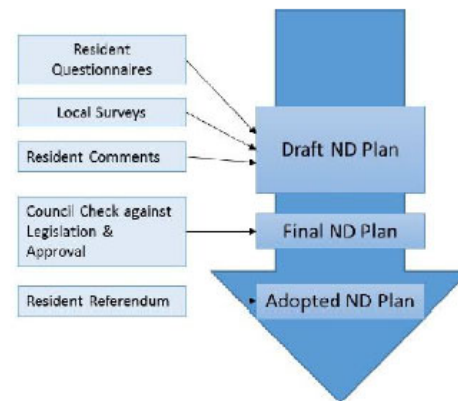
Please contribute by providing information in the questionnaires.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan will be made available to you for comment before it is finalised. Please let us know what you think.

How will the plan be made?

Your Local Representatives will distribute questionnaires and will collate the resulting data. Based on that data (reinforced by surveys to record the character of the local social and natural environments) a plan will be prepared.

The draft plan will be circulated to all residents for comment. Once we are agreed, the plan is submitted for approval by Cheshire West & Chester Council. The final plan will be subject to a referendum of all residents, and only accepted if a majority approve.



How will we be informed?

Your local representative will keep you informed, mainly through flyers such as this. We also have a website coming soon.

When will it happen?

The plan should be ready early 2015.

A.2 **Drop-In Day feedback**

A draft of five policies was shared at a drop in day in November 2015.

The policies have since been reduced to the three now contained in the plan document, but all feedback is provided here.

Public drop-in 15 November 2015 comments/suggestions

Policy 1-Housing

Huxley

1. Is agriculture land considered to be 'green' or brownfield? If considered to be brown, would development be considered? If green this appears to safeguard the non-development of agricultural land.

2. Infill of say 2 houses maximum in the current 'on the lane' position. This excludes any 'estate type' buildings plans which don't conform to the historical style.

3. This is clear, simple and seems to back up 'The Residents' feedback accurately. We need to recognize that 'open countryside' is integral to our settlements. Green gaps views from most houses-it isn't some 'separate place'.

4. Huxley needs a few more houses or the village will die. I don't think it is fair for the large villages like Malpas, Tattenhall, Tarvin etc. to bear the brunt of all the development.

5. I think that the evidence clearly shows that local population want to keep the villages as they are, maintaining the open views and well spaced housing. The policies suggested look good and that they will support this.

6. Should we have more for the Homeowners? E.g. the former chapel would make a good office site. Graveyard less of an issue for office and room for parking on Willow Cottage side, probably 4 cars.

Promote work/live/studio units

7. Agree with policies

8. Agree with policy stated

9. I believe these criteria are sufficient to control development while still having our share. Brownfield and change of use is plenty.

10 Clause 5: Include actual facilities i.e.: there is a weekly bus service through Huxley and burton on Tuesday. In addition to 2 Churches there are 2 village halls, a bowling green and a playing field.

IE: MORE THAN JUST 2 CHURCHES AND SCHOOL

Clause 5.1 Why go from the evidence/ purpose to dividing no greenfield sites allowed to be developed??!

11. Good housing policy all we need is covered.

12. Policy 3 Local Character - agree

Policy 1 Housing- agree
Policy 2 Community facilities- agree

Foulk Stapleford

1. No sites have been identified that could be developed for affordable homes. This plan is becoming a charter for NIMBYs despite Ian Hunt categorically assuring everyone that this is the case. 66% of the questionnaire results show affordable housing are extremely important and I don't see plans to create affordable houses.

2. Agree with the policy proposed on future housing.

3. That the plan should show only brownfield sites for development as there are sufficient of these to satisfy development requirements.

4. We agree with the policy

Bruen Stapleford

1. I see no need for this development. It will cause inconvenience and traffic on a blind bend. I doubt if young families will be attracted to an already geriatric population

Burton

1. No infrastructure capacity for further housing development

Policy 2 Community Facilities

Huxley

1. Plan seems to be well on the way, looks good.
2. Improve and cut back the pavements extend it to Red Lane and the bus stops
3. Section 5.2 none of the policies support existing community facilities. More younger families in the village would-no mention of this!
4. Agree with the policies
5. I agree that our facilities should be supported.
6. Agree with policies

Fouk Stapleford

1. In agreement
2. Can/Should a community of our size population not concentrate on just one Village Hall to? Enable collecting funds for essential upgrading/improving this important community facility.

Burton

1. Rights of way need protecting from calves with their mothers.

Policy 3 Local Character

Huxley

1. Clean up the Gowy
2. The policies that have been proposed have obviously given thought to the local people's love of the character of the area and the dark skies that make the villages such a nice place to live.
3. Planning consent for small pockets in style with the surrounding area and local character. Estate style multiple units are not in keeping with the Local Character and should be avoided.
4. Keeping dark skies is important. Better maintained pavement is important especially with the increase of fast traffic.
5. The contents of this plan aptly reflect my husband and my views. 2 years ago we moved from Manchester because we wanted to live in the countryside. Therefore the things that matter most to us are peace and quiet, broadband and if it was possible to make Huxley Lane calmer that would be fantastic. We'd like to think that we'll live here for at least the next 10 years but that is reliant on being able to retain the rural nature of Huxley. Thank you for putting the plan together.
6. Agree with the policies.
7. Strongly agree with 3d
3b- supports the idea but there is a wide variation of styles so can't be descriptive within broad guidelines.
No Street lights!
8. I agree the policy supports the idea of keeping the character which is important to me and clearly to the community.

Foulk Stapleford

1. I appreciate all the hard work that the Group are doing to develop our Neighbourhood Plan

Policy 4 Transport

Huxley

1. Living on Huxley Lane (I've just bought the house) I'm surprised at the speed of some of the cars. I would very much support (get involved in any way I can) in developing a quiet roads policy.
2. Clause 5.4 Excellent idea for "Quiet Lanes"
3. Speed bumps, neon signage to reduce speed through village (see Faddiley)
Uncut verges would discourage walkers
4. Agree with policies.
5. Would like to see traffic slowed down-I support quiet lanes policy.
6. Like quiet Lanes but transport weakest - needs more detail-what, where, now?
7. Policy 4. I think there maybe a better approach to quiet lanes e.g. lower speed limit in built area to 30mph or 20 mph. I would be concerned about removal of speed or hazard signs-this may increase speed. Decreasing road width does not seem a good idea-vehicles already drive on our verge.
8. Cycle Lanes in the area are not fit for purpose due to poor surface condition. When traffic density permits missing pot-holes is a satisfactory course of action otherwise it is risky to cycle on our lanes. Would the local authorities have any say on the conditions of our lanes for sporting activities?
9. Support the principle of Quiet Lanes, but this section should address
- most of our traffic comes from outside our area, can we influence a wider debate
- Presumably there is data to back up current and previous volumes?
- Where are we proposing changes-which routes?!

Burton

1. Quiet Lanes policy is excellent.
+signs-Please drive slowly through....

Policy 5 communications

Huxley

1. Agree with policy.
2. I think that the campaign for better broadband is essential and is the right thing for the village, the Internet has become an essential part of modern life both in urban and rural areas.
3. Better broadband would help me work from home more easily-currently unable to do this.
4. Desperately need high speed broadband. Existing broadband is slow and unreliable.

Fouk Stapleford

1. Willing to contribute to a 'private' broadband supply to the community. Referendum needed.

Burton

1. Support broadband should be extended from Tarvin/ Tarporley. This has become essential.

Policy 5/ General

Huxley

1. Agree with policies
2. A comprehensive effort and I am extremely supportive of the conclusions. Any proposed lighting scheme would be ridiculous in this area.
3. Couple of general thoughts:
We have a number of businesses (TG, Hewitts, Boatyard) plus farms and lots of home workers. The plan doesn't seem to address this-do we want to support, expand, reduce, what? Can travel out of the village be reduced, e.g. by supporting businesses to stay local? (Accept broadband helps, anything else?)
Important to make the message positive-we live in a special place which people love. Protecting and enhancing, it is not 'negative'-don't be defensive!

Fouk Stapleford

1. I support proposals.

A.3 Growth Options Analysis

A growth strategy was needed to give a clear philosophy to the plan. In order to develop a suitable growth strategy a separate survey was carried out to understand the residents' views and needs.

Development of the Options

The possibilities were derived through a workshop with the Parish Councils of Foulk Stapleford and Huxley in Spring 2015.

The format of the workshop was as follows

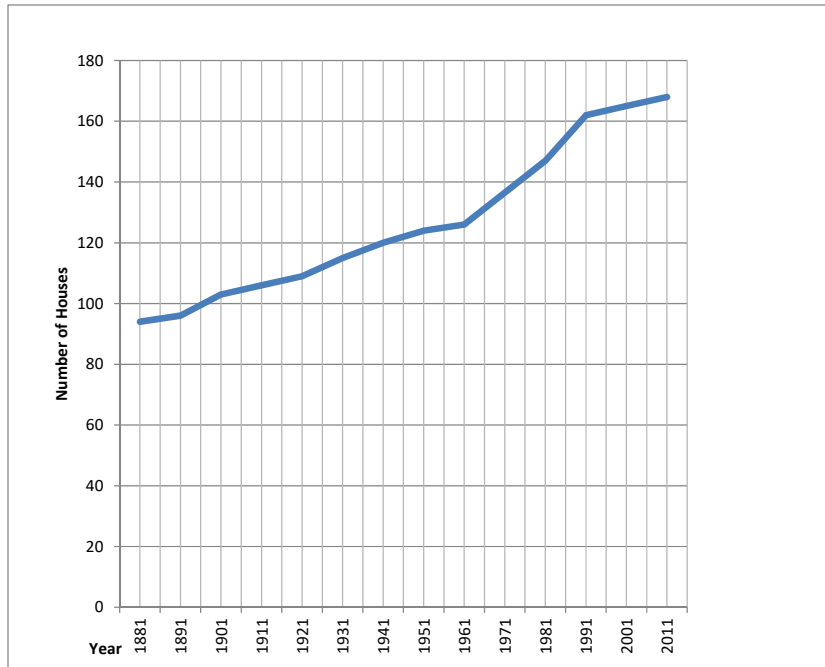
- Discussion of what growth has been seen in previous years, which was established by counting the number of planning permissions granted for the entire neighbourhood area for the period of 1995 to 2015. This provided the base line, which was termed 'organic growth'.
- Consideration of what growth at the historical rate, as well as more and less growth was made, using maps to identify what this might look like.
- Discussing what policies currently exist within the local plan to support or constrain growth.
- Discussing what refinement to the local plan would need to be achieved through the neighbourhood plan policies to achieve these various growth options, and discuss any conflicts with the local or national plan.

What is the Historical Growth Rate?

Over the period of 1995 to 2015, 20 additional units were added to the area. Please refer to the planning permission summary in Appendix **Error! Reference source not found.** This equates to an approximate growth rate of 0.5% per annum.

This is further supported by census data. The following shows that from 130 years of census data there is a growth rate of 5.3% per 15 years, so 0.35% per annum.

Year	Huxley	Fouk Stapleford	Combined
1881	51	43	94
1891	52	44	96
1901	57	46	103
1911	60	46	106
1921	64	45	109
1931	68	47	115
1941	73	47	120
1951	77	47	124
1961	83	43	126
1971			136.5
1981	86	61	147
1991	93	69	162
2001			165
2011	98	70	168
Average 15-year increase	5.42	3.12	8.54
As a %ge of the average tot	6.92%	5.64%	5.30%
As a %ge of the 2011 total	5.53%	4.45%	5.08%



Growth Possibilities

The three possibilities that were then circulated for views in the survey were agreed as:

Possibility 1: Historic Growth as we have seen for the area in recent years. This equates to approximately 20 new units over the 15 year lifetime of the plan.

Possibility 2: Less than Historic Growth – fewer than 20 new units over the 15 year lifetime of the plan.

Possibility 3: More than Historic Growth - say 40 units over the 15 year lifetime of the plan.

Survey Results

The results of the survey were collated to establish which possibility was most agreeable to take forward.

From the 102 responses received, a clear majority (52%) of residents preferred possibility 1. 22.5% of responses preferred possibility 2, and 15 % preferred possibility 3. These results are shown in the table and graph below.

Table 23 Growth Possibilities Survey Results

	Count	%
Possibility 1	53	52.0
Possibility 2	23	22.5
Possibility 3	15	14.7
No Comment	11	10.8

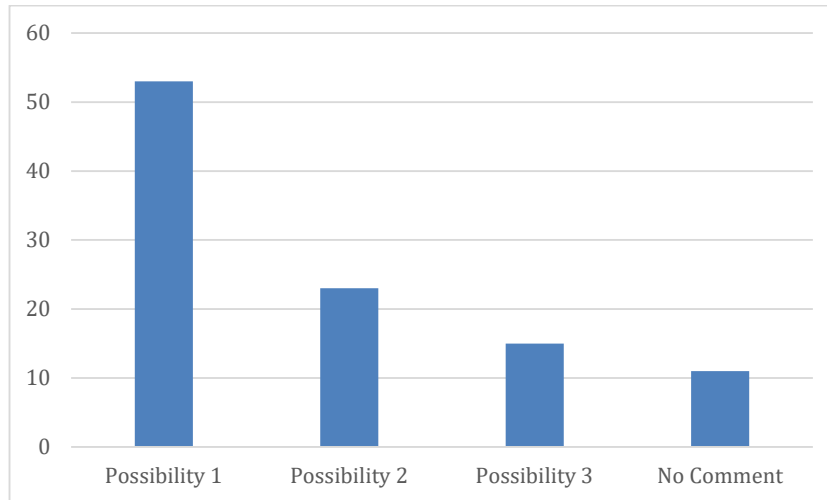


Figure 7 Growth Strategy Survey Results

Conclusion

Based on the results of this survey, and that Possibility 1 is the most closely aligned to the local plan, it is most appropriate for the policies contained within this neighbourhood plan support an organic level of growth, not exceeding 20 units over the 15 year lifetime of the plan, and that this growth should be evenly distributed over this lifetime.

B. Sustainability Appraisal

B.1 Sustainability Appraisal - Huxley

Sustainability appraisals were conducted for Hargrave and Huxley, the 2 largest settlements in the Area. Appraisals were not carried out for the settlements of Burton, Bruen Stapleford, Foulk Stapleford and Hatton, since these are smaller and with fewer facilities, and therefore less likely to be sustainable locations for development.

14 Sustainability appraisal - Huxley

The settlement of Huxley is appraised in line with CWaC's methodology.

Theme	Indicator	Sustainability Rating	Huxley evidence	Score
Size of village	Population	1 = up to 2,000	251 (2011 Census)	1
	Dwellings	1 = up to 500	98 (2011 Census) + 2 (NDP survey)	1
Accessibility	Bus service	0 = no service 1 = less frequent service 2 = Daily service, less than hourly	0 for Huxley Lane. 1 for Church Lane/Hoofield Lane (once per week). 2 for Red Lane (41A, average 2-hourly). Average = 3 out of 3	1
	Distance to main urban areas or Key service Centres	2 = 2 to 5 miles	Key Service Centres of Tattenhall, Tarvin or Tarporley all 3 miles away.	2
	Access to main towns on public transport	0 = no service 1 = within 1 hour	0 for Huxley, Church and Hoofield Lanes. 1 for Red Lane. Average = 1 out of 2	0.5
	Distance to main	1 = within 5 miles	No. More than 5 miles to Chester or Winsford	0

Theme	Indicator	Sustainability Rating	Huxley evidence	Score
	employment sites			
Shopping and Retail	Post Office	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Village shop	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Pharmacy	2 = within settlement	No	0
Community Facilities	Library	1 = mobile service within settlement	Yes	1
	Place of worship	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Village hall	2 = within settlement	Yes, Huxley Lane	2
	Recreational open space	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Public house	2 = within settlement	Public house on Huxley Lane closed 'for re-development' for 3 years	0
Health care	Doctors	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Dentist	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Opticians	2 = within settlement	No	0

Theme	Indicator	Sustainability Rating	Huxley evidence	Score
Education provision	Early years nursery	2 = within settlement	No (only once per week toddlers group)	0
	Primary school	2 = within settlement	Yes, Huxley C of E Primary	2
	Secondary school	3 = within settlement	No	0
TOTAL SCORE				10.5

2. Planning refusals due to unsustainability

The following refusal and dismissal have been made recently by the local planning authority, CWaC, the Planning Inspectorate. Their decisions have been based mainly on Huxley not being a location for sustainable development. The development of new-build dwellings in open countryside which was not previously developed, and the lack of sustainable transport and facilities, were key factors.

14/02250/OUT and APP/A0665/A/14/22253186 – 6 dwellings

3. Conclusion

Huxley achieves a very low score in the CWaC Local Service Centre Methodology, indicating that the settlement is not a remotely sustainable location for development, (and is wholly unsuited to be a Local Service Centre).

This is reinforced by the recent refusal and dismissal above, on the basis that the application was not sustainable development.

In accordance with Main Modification 7 to the Local Plan Part 1, 'a very limited amount of development, if any', should therefore take place.

B.2 Sustainability Appraisal - Hargrave

1. CWaC Local Service Centre Methodology (from Part 2 of the Draft Local Plan)

The settlement of Hargrave is appraised in line with CWaC's methodology.

Theme	Indicator	Sustainability Rating	Hargrave evidence	Score
Size of village	Population	1 = up to 2,000	161 (2011 Census whole Parish of Foulk Stapleford)	1
	Dwellings	1 = up to 500	70 (2011 Census) - 2 (NDP survey)	1
Accessibility	Bus service	0 = no service 1 = less frequent service 2 = Daily service, less than hourly	2 (41A, average 2-hourly through centre of settlement)	2
	Distance to main urban areas or Key service Centres	2 = 2 to 5 miles	Key Service Centres of Tattenhall, Tarvin or Tarporley all approx. 3 miles away.	2
	Access to main towns on public transport	0 = no service 1 = within 1 hour	1 (41A, average 2-hourly through centre of settlement)	1
	Distance to main	1 = within 5 miles	No. More than 5 miles to Chester or Winsford	0

Theme	Indicator	Sustainability Rating	Hargrave evidence	Score
	employment sites			
Shopping and Retail	Post Office	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Village shop	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Pharmacy	2 = within settlement	No	0
Community Facilities	Library	1 = mobile service within settlement	Yes	1
	Place of worship	2 = within settlement	Yes	2
	Village hall	2 = within settlement	Yes, next to church	2
	Recreational open space	2 = within settlement	Yes, bowling green and playing field next to church	2
	Public house	2 = within settlement	No	0
Health care	Doctors	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Dentist	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Opticians	2 = within settlement	No	0
Education provision	Early years nursery	2 = within settlement	No	0

Theme	Indicator	Sustainability Rating	Hargrave evidence	Score
	Primary school	2 = within settlement	No	0
	Secondary school	3 = within settlement	No	0
TOTAL SCORE				14