

ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH (Helen Keller)

Our Strategy - Our Future

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) will help the residents of Ruishton & Thornfalcon Parishes to shape the future of their area.

There are changes planned by government and the councils including a dual-carriageway for the A358 and a new employment area by the M5 junction. Already the Parish Council is able to use the responses to the Household Survey to inform their input to these proposals.

Further change is inevitable and the NP will express the views of the community as to how that should happen. Once adopted it becomes part of the formal plan for this area.

At each stage of producing the NP the community will be consulted and the final version of the plan will be put to a referendum.

Survey Findings:

In March 2017, a survey of households was distributed to everyone. Its main findings are:

People believe that access to the countryside is the most important thing about living here. Proximity to Taunton, the sense of community and facilities in the Parish are also valued by many.

When asked what they are most satisfied with, access to the countryside, the river, wildlife conservation, rights of way and bridleways, rank highest. But people are least satisfied with flood prevention, air pollution, areas of special protection and safe cycling routes.

Things people would most like the Parish to invest in are footpaths and bridleways, cyclepaths, a community café/shop, and parking for the recreation field.

Issues surrounding traffic are high on the list of concerns including pedestrian safety, lower speed limits, reduced traffic volume and cycle safety. In future, the A358 should have more cycleways, wider footpaths, more crossings, speed limits, more planting and limits on access.

Word Cloud of Survey Returns



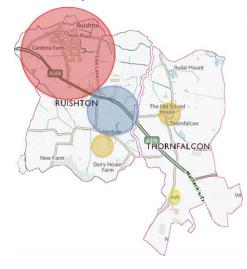
The Community:

- People value easy access to the countryside proximity to Taunton, the sense of community and Parish facilities.
- Those facilities include Henlade Post Office, the Village Hall, pubs and churches.

The Environment:

- Highest overall satisfaction is with access to the countryside. A sizeable proportion of people are also satisfied with wildlife conservation and rights of way.
- People are least satisfied with safe cycle routes, the level of air pollution (Henlade A358) and flood prevention.
- Nearly half the respondents have concerns with traffic issues. Screen planting is a suggestion for the motorway. Concerns are also raised over development on greenfield land. Other issues include footpaths, cycle paths, dog mess/litter/fly tipping, wildlife, riverbank protection; canal and bridge preservation.

Where the responses came from



Leisure and Recreation:

- The majority use the Parish's footpaths.
 More than half use the Village Hall and just under half use the recreation field/park.
 Cycle paths are current used by more than 1 in 3 residents.
- Improvements to footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways are of high importance, especially regarding public safety.
- Most people feel there should be more leisure and recreation provision for teenagers and older people.

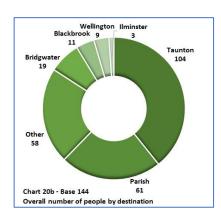
Heritage:

 Parish churches, Taunton to Chard canal, post boxes and bridges are identified as important. Parish walks and the countryside around them need to be protected.

Education:

- Ruishton and Heathfield are the main schools used. Travel safety to Heathfield is highlighted as a particular issue.
- More than 1 in 4 respondants would like better adult education provision.

Place of Work



Transport:

 Improvements in pedestrian and cycle safety on Ruishton Lane, Bushy Cross Lane and Lipe Lane, a reduction in the volume of traffic on the A358 and traffic speeding are considered of importance to most people.

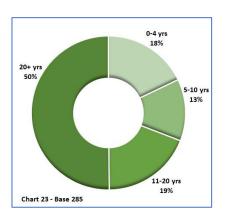
Business and Employment:

- Just over half the respondents would like to include business development for local people in the plan.
- For the 6 in 10 respondents who work at home, better Broadband would help improve efficiency for nearly half of them.

Housing:

- The majority feel the Parish is in most need of affordable housing for local people. Also needed are sheltered housing, retirement housing, and low-cost starter homes.
- There is little support for flats, luxury housing or residential park homes.

Residence in Parish



RUISHTON & THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



How You Can Help:

- Join the project team.
- Continue to reply to surveys and let us know your thoughts on the draft plan.

Where you can find us:

- www.ruishton.org.uk
- Facebook (Ruishton, Thornfalcon & Henlade)

Contact Details:

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Community Identity

