**Somersham Carnival Bullet Points on the NP**

**What is a NP?**

A Neighbourhood Plan is a community led plan and is your way of having a say on the future of your Village. It will represent the views and aspirations of the community and can be referred to regarding local issues that are not covered by the Huntingdonshire Local Plan. It is an important document and once adopted, after a successful local referendum, will be used alongside the Huntingdonshire Local Plan when making judgement on planning applications.

A NP contains non-strategic policies to support and add further detail to policy matters already adopted in the Local Plan which are specifically relevant to Somersham. This includes the mix of housing, design principles for new development, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, protecting local green spaces from development, and setting out other development management policies which are not addressed at a district level.

**Consultation Summary So Far**

A resident survey was conducted in March 2025 to gather the communities views on what they like and dislike about the parish and things they want addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan. In total 144 people answered some or all of the survey. The majority of people were residents (139 people) and ages ranged between 20- 80+ years. Summary of points raised include:

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| **Best things about Somersham** | * The community spirit and rural feel
* The village services/facilities on offer and access to green spaces
* Access to larger locations and enjoyable walking routes
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| **Worst things about Somersham** | * Anti-social behaviour
* Access and transport issues including speeding, parking and traffic congestion, poorly maintained roads, lack of public transport and inaccessible footpaths
* Development and infrastructure concerns including amount of new housing being built and infrastructure capacity
* Lack of community activities and amenities residents want to see for all ages
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| **Important things to consider over the next 15 years** | * Preserving green spaces (140 people), keeping the rural feel of Somersham (136 people) and retaining its village feel (134 people).
* Improving habitats for wildlife (133 people) and development is environmentally sustainable (123 people).
* New housing meeting local needs (type/size) (101 people), high quality housing (86 people) and more affordable housing (82 people)
* Improve public transport links (130 people) and walking/cycling networks in the village (116 people)
* Better community facilities for all ages (121 people) and encourage business growth (102 people)
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| **Housing**  | * NP should ensure smaller homes are built and are starter homes.
* The majority of people were not on the waiting list for socially rented housing. Members of households in Somersham who said they want/need to move out their property and wish to stay in Somersham were mainly single adults or adult couples. People needed to move out due to current properties are not suitable/too small or wish to live independently. The type of households these members would like are either houses, bungalows or flat/apartments.
* Many people **(**82 people) said yes, they would support the neighbourhood plan identifying a site for new housing within the parishif it would enable the parish to have more control on where new homes are located etc.
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| **Design** | * People gave mixed opinions on how they would describe the character of housing in Somersham. Many said there was a real variation of styles and features. People liked the traditional features in the centre of the village. Some felt that new development has been of a poor design.
* People felt a number of factors were important in the design of housing including building scale should be in keeping with the development pattern of the street (128 people), and development should use porous surfaces and green parking spaces (118 people), incorporate features to support wildlife (117 people), have soft boundaries such as hedges (115 people) and a street layout that reflects Somersham (115 people).
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| **Roads and Public Transport** | * People would like to see a bus service either hourly (66 people) or every two hours (34 people) in the area and wish for the service to stop at locations such as Cambridge (70 people), Huntingdon (69 people) and St Ives (99 people).
* 112 people felt road safety was a problem in the parish and said this could be improved by addressing parking concerns such as enforcing parking restrictions/double yellow lines along the High Street, Parkhall Road and outside the school and create a community car park (51 people), implement traffic calming measures/speed camera (31 people), reduce the speed limit (15 people), more police presence (12 people) or improve and maintain roads, cycle lanes and footpaths .
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| **Natural Environment**  | * 121 people are satisfied with the access to green spaces in the parish.
* 127 people gave suggestions on green spaces they would like to see protected such as The nature reserve and lake (58 people) or all green spaces (47 people).
* 50 people gave suggestions of open views they wish to protect in the parish such as towards the nature reserve (20 people) and towards the church (12 people).
* There is a preference for future developments to include open green spaces (102 people), native trees, shrubs and hedgerows (99 people) and measures to preserve the flood plain (98 people).
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| **Community Infrastructure Improvements**  | * 142 people answered what the priorities for future spending on community infrastructure should be in the parish. The most popular answers were new/improved footpaths (80 people), road safety improvements e.g. pedestrian crossing points (69 people), improvements for wildlife (59 people) and maintaining existing sport facilities/or providing more (57 people).
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