

15.9.2017

HESLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

ANALYSIS OF BUSINESS/LANDOWNERS QUESTIONNAIRE

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ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

How was the survey conducted?

A single copy of the paper version of the questionnaire was delivered to businesses and landowners in the Parish (180 questionnaires). We attempted to contact every eligible business or landowner (excluding domestic properties, but including farms), based on information provided by CYC, the University of York, and the York Science Park. A stamped addressed envelope was provided for responses. Business and landowners were given six weeks to respond, but all late submissions were included in the analysis.

Response rate and methods of analysis

39 questionnaires were returned, an overall response rate of 21.7%.

Response rates for specific segments of the community were as follows:

	<i>Questionnaires distributed</i>	<i>Returned</i>	<i>% Return</i>
Businesses/Science Park	153	27	(17.6%)
Working farms	8	2	(25.0%)
Major landowners	5	3	(60.0%)
Other village and parish	14	7	(50.0%)

The responses were analysed by Sir John Lawton (a retired natural scientist) with additional input from Lady Dot Lawton (a retired data-analyst).

WHAT KIND OF BUSINESSES ARE THERE IN THE PARISH?

(Q1) What does your business/company do?

	Responses
IT/Software development	6
Consultancy	4
Science and technology applications	4
Misc. small businesses	3
Caring, pre-school education, charities	3
Property and office management	2
Land development	2
Insurance, finance	2
Bank, Post Office	2
Sports Field and Golf Club	2
Farming	2
Major landowner	1
Pub	1
Not stated	5

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BUSINESSES

(Q3) Are your business premises?:

Rented/Leased	27 (69.1%)
Owned	8 (20.5%)
Both owned & rented/leased	2 (5.1%)
Other (unspecified)	1 (2.6%)
Nil return	1 (2.6%)

(Q4) How long have you run your business from this location?

Less than 1 year	7 (17.9%)
1-3 years	8 (20.5%)
4-7 years	8 (20.5%)
7-10 years	1 (2.6%)
More than 10 years	15 (38.4%)

(Q5) How many full-time employees do you have?

None	6 (15.4%)
Up to 5	18 (46.1%)
Up to 10	2 (5.1%)
More than 10	4 (10.2%)
More than 20	5 (12.8%)
More than 40	4 (10.2%)

(Q6) How many part-time employees do you have?

None	16 (41.0%)
Up to 5	14 (35.8%)
Up to 10	7 (17.9%)
More than 10	1 (2.6%)
More than 20	0
More than 40	0
Nil return	1 (2.6%)

(Q7) Does your business use self-employed staff?

No	25 (64.0%)
Up to 5	10 (25.6%)
Up to 10	2 (5.1%)
More than 10	0
More than 20	1 (2.6%)
More than 40	1 (2.5%)

(Q9) Do you consider your business as?

SME	18 (46.1%)
Owner/proprietor run	12 (30.7%)
Multi-national	4 (10.2%)
National chain	1 (2.6%)
Large independent	0
Other	2 (5.1%)
Nil return	2 (5.1%)

PRESENT AND FUTURE STAFFING

(Q10) Are you considering expanding the workforce over the next five years?

Maybe	16 (41.0%)
Yes	15 (38.4%)
No	8 (20.5%)

(Q11) Are you currently recruiting?

No	25 (64.0%)
Yes	13 (33.3%)
Nil return	1 (2.6%)

(Q12) Do you have an established Apprenticeship programme?

No	29 (74.2%)
Yes	9 (23.0%)
Nil return	1 (2.6%)

(Q15) Do you operate shift or flexi-hours arrangements?

(More than one response allowed on each questionnaire)

Days only	25 (47.3%)
Early/lates	6 (11.3%)
Weekends	6 (11.3%)
7-days	5 (9.5%)
Nights	2 (3.8%)
Other (various)	4 (7.6%)
Nil return	5 (9.5%)

TRAVEL TO WORK

(Q8) What percentage of your employees normally work from home?

None	24 (61.4%)
1-10%	5 (12.8%)
11-20%	0
21-30%	1 (2.6%)
31-40%	0
41-50%	3 (7.7%)
Not applicable	2 (5.1%)
Nil return	4 (10.2%)

(Q13) How do your employees get to work?

(More than one response allowed on each questionnaire)

Car/van	36 (39.2%)
Cycle	25 (27.3%)
Walk	16 (17.4%)
Bus	12 (13.1%)
Not applicable	2 (2.2%)
Nil return	1 (1.1%)

Q14) Do the majority of your employees:?

Live within 30 minutes travel to work	28 (71.2%)
Commute more than 30 minutes to work	7 (17.9%)
“Half and half”	1 (2.6%)
Not applicable	1 (2.6%)
Nil return	2 (5.1%)

(Q16) Do you have enough parking for all your employees?

Yes always	17 (43.5%)
Could use more	11 (28.2%)
No, never enough	6 (15.4%)
Need more for visitors, clients, deliveries etc.	4 (10.2%)
Could use less	0
Not applicable	1 (2.6%)

(Q17) Do you share parking with residents/visitors to Heslington area?

No	22 (56.3%)
Yes	15 (38.4%)
Not applicable	1 (2.6%)
Nil return	1 (2.6%)

PROBLEMS

(Q18) Do you have problems with vandalism, theft, break-ins, or other criminal offences?

No	32 (81.9%)
Yes	6 (15.4%)
Not applicable	1 (2.6%)

With the following examples:

NatWest ATM theft October 2015	2
Trespassers	2
Barclays Bank broken window	1
Occasional (low level) vandalism	1
Broken bottles	1

(Q19) Do you have problems with?:

Litter	5
Noise	5
Lighting (poor)	2
Other (e.g. fly-tipping)	3
None of the above	28
Not applicable	1

PROS & CONS OF HESLINGTON AS A LOCATION

(Q20) What was the main reason for choosing to run your business from Heslington?

Location, including facilities and transport links	13 (25.0%)
Involvement with, and access to University	11 (21.1%)
Science Park	5 (9.6%)
Quality of environment/beauty of area	5 (9.6%)
Historical ties to Heslington and/or York	5 (9.6%)
Proximity to home/convenience	3 (5.8%)
Business or job became available	2 (3.8%)
Other	2 (3.8%)
Nil return	5 (9.6%)
Not applicable	1 (1.9%)

(Q21) Does your business access the skills, facilities or services of, or employ any people from, the University of York?

Yes	20 (51.2%)
No	13 (33.3%)
Nil return	4 (10.2%)
Not applicable	2 (5.1%)

With the following advantages for those answering “yes”:

Access to a knowledgeable, well educated work-force or potential employees	9
Pleasant campus, Science Park and sports facilities	5
Access to student interns and volunteers	5
Access to expertise	1
Close to home	1

With few disadvantages specifically identified:

Traffic and parking problems	3
Insufficient space for expansion	1

(Q22) How will the major housing developments (as proposed in the Draft City of York Local Plan) impact on your business?

Advantages identified:

More clients/customers/members	6
More accommodation for staff	5
More potential employees	3
“Good for our business”	3
Reduced commuting time	1
“Little or none”	1

Disadvantages identified:

Increased traffic congestion and parking problems	12
Building encroachment	1
Increase in trespassers	1
Loss of farmland	1
May need more space for recreation	1
Increased commuting time	1
“None”	5

Plus:

Not aware of what is in Local Plan	3
Nil return	7
Not applicable	2

FINALLY

What would you highlight as the main areas that need to be considered in the Parish Neighbourhood Plan? How would you like to see a NP help your business?

Nil returns	12
“No issues”	1

The remaining 26 responses identified the following areas as important components of the NP (several respondents identified more than one issue):

Traffic and congestion	13
Parking	8
The need for more houses, and affordable housing	6
Ensuring that green spaces and wildlife sites are protected	5
Pollution (unspecified)	2
General infrastructure provision (unspecified)	2
The need for more village amenities, shops, café etc.	2
Remove chicanes; replace with other traffic calming	2
Better cycle routes	1
Protect character of Main Street	1

Respondents were less forthcoming about how the NP could help their business:

Faster Broadband	1
Allow farm buildings to be used for other purposes	1
Create opportunities to interact with other businesses	1

Sample quotes

- *“Our biggest issue is lack of car parking space.”*
- *“Main issue for us is the City’s anti-car policy which makes it difficult to run our business.”*
- *“We have a great working - and living – environment here [but] it will be difficult to maintain as the City of York grows. Thoughtful infrastructure must be built to support any development.”*
- *“1. Traffic flows. 2. Amenities/shops. 3. Eating places.”*
- *“Traffic and pollution concern me the most.”*
- *“Additional housing, affordable and of good quality is desperately needed in York.”*
- *“[T]he ‘wildfowl and wetland’...of Hes East..{and} Nature Reserve Areas, Hes. Common etc. ...make the area quite unique in York.”*