

St Ippolyts Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire

Available at St Ippolyts Parish Hall Christmas Fair on 22 November 2014, Public Meeting 14 January 2015 and distributed to all households with invite to Annual Parish meeting 13 April 2015

Responses

1. What is good about St Ippolyts?

Good community 3

Good facilities: School x 7, Store / shop x 3, Pubs x 2, Play areas / recreation ground x 3, Church x 5, Hall x 2

Local businesses

Character / Atmosphere x 3

Countryside / surrounding countryside 2

Proper community

Close knit community

Still retains rural identity

Space between town and village – maintains rural aspect

Nature

Rural edge of town character

Not over-developed

Excellent road/rail links

Very close proximity to Hitchin x 3

Charm and variety of houses

Low crime rate x 2

Rural community and would like it to remain so, continuing slowly evolving

Open spaces / green spaces x 2

Not too suburban despite being close to Hitchin and Gosmore

Community with a history

Our home and family members live in the village and have done so for some hundred years

Location

Pleasant village near Hitchin and Stevenage

2. What is bad about St Ippolyts?

Nothing x 3

Lost Post Office

Traffic in Stevenage road

The worry that Hitchin will engulf it

The road blocked around the school preventing access to Stevenage Road during school dropping off/picking up x 2

Tends to merge into Hitchin

Losing its identity to Hitchin

Declining and aging population

No new housing for past five years

Parking in Waterdell Lane

Hedgerows need to be cut back

Owners allowing their dogs to poo and not clearing it up

Parks are dated

Speeding traffic on narrow lanes

Rat run along Waterdell Lane x 4

Rat run along Sperberry Hill

Continual threat of urban sprawl

It feels rundown and somewhat uncared for

Local sign posts have different spellings and graffiti

Victorian lamp-posts are neglected
Two play areas feel very old and urban
Poor quality and linear post war development not in local style
Very busy main road
Inadequate housing for young single people, young families, elderly people and those who are infirm
Public transport to Hitchin
Speed of traffic especially on school road
Too many parked cars on road – more driveways needed
Road congestion

3. What would you like to introduce to St Ippolyts?

Would like to keep as it is, no big expansion of housing
More pavements, 30 mph in Preston Road
Perhaps a little affordable housing so that local people can find a home
Traffic warden to police school traffic x 2
Flats and houses to enable locals and their families to stay in the area
Sheltered housing so people can downsize
Sheltered housing for elderly 2
Separate settlement boundary around both villages and hamlets
Specific policies to encourage and grow our communities
Proper planning and implementation of the findings in St Ippolyts housing needs survey
Council or voluntary hedgerow pruning and path overgrowth maintenance
Solution to Gosmore Road flooding
Encourage people to wear light clothing and keep on right side when walking along Gosmore
Road where there is no path
Post office x 3
Street lighting
Fence around the parks
A ban on people with sizeable gardens depositing rubbish in hedges
Use of school hall for church events
Speed bumps x 2
Footpath from Broadmeadow to church and school
The right type of housing with affordability being the keyword
Warden controlled housing
Different colour houses! (white not yellow)
Restriction of housing development
GP surgery and Chiropody Clinic

4. What makes a neighbourhood good to live and work in?

Safe /security x 5
Good facilities x 4
Good links by rail, road and air x 2
Friendly atmosphere x 2
Sense of community / Community spirit x 3
Road safety
Housing for local needs
Schools
Shop
Safeguarding of the local character
Gosmore and St Ippolyts villages are lovely places to live and retire to. Everything has become so very expensive and very little work/jobs available
Main amenities which we have
Any new buildings in keeping with the rest –not incongruous or inappropriate

The people
A sense of belonging
Meeting friends at gatherings
Buses to and from town / Regular transport to a local town x 2
Activities in hall
People who care about their surroundings and group together to look after the area
Post office
Friendly neighbours
Quiet
No vandalism
Countryside and views being protected
Infrastructure being sensitively and well maintained
Good basic services that match demand
The community that lives there
People who have a sense of belonging to the place they live in and are interested in keeping up good standards
Social events
Aesthetics
Peaceful environment that protects wildlife
All persons being friendly, approachable and fair minded

5. What pressures affect the area now or in the future?

New house building x 5
The risk of absorption into Hitchin x 2
Traffic increase, speed of traffic e.g. on Sperberry Hill in particular
Thoroughfare around the church
Increase in population from inside and outside
Existing infrastructure will not cope
Need proper planning, policies and new homes
Number and speed of cars
Potholes and uneven surfaces
Overgrowth
Through traffic along Waterdell Lane during rush hour
Need for all this extra housing
School places limited
More traffic on already congested roads
Threat of town encroachment
High density of traffic x 2
Lack of affordable housing
Threat to Green Belt
Transport links to Luton and Stevenage
It is mainly housing and transport
Sprawl of Hitchin / Stevenage
School size
Infrastructure is already inadequate further housing makes this worse
Definite need for appropriate housing for senior citizens and the young

6. What would you like to change about St Ippolyts?

Nothing much, just keep clean, safe and maintained.
Nothing x 4
Footpath close to St Ippolyts brook
Improve / parking for school x 3
Encourage more walking to school

We do not want significant growth in housing which will change the character and put excessive pressure on local facilities

Inappropriate Green Belt across the entire parish

New homes for youngsters, new bungalows to enable downsizing, one or two new family homes

A proper Neighbourhood Plan to support growth and shape development

Move it nearer the sea

Street lighting

There is no affordable housing for families

State of roads – too many potholes

State of road near cemetery, school and church

Post office back

To allow young people to live in the area who do not want to live elsewhere

To allow elderly people a nice place to live, ideally a safe and protected place where they can be prevented from being lonely

To provide buses such that the timetables can be more thought out

St Ippolyts to remain as it is.

Have more housing provided and GP surgery and Chiropody Clinic

Additional

Any new building will need appropriate infrastructure ie school, water, power, drainage, shops etc – is this in a plan? No!