The Parish of Arnesby has commenced the preparation of their Neighbourhood Plan.

An important part of this inclusive process is, of course, obtaining the views and aspirations of the community. Key to this has been the development and dissemination of a community questionnaire.

The questionnaire contained 20 questions and is based on important themes established following initial consultation work by the Arnesby Parish Council. These themes are: Our Village, Housing, Development, Village Facilities, Education, Transport, Business and General Comments.

The survey took place between September and October 2016. It was available to complete electronically and as a paper copy. The level of response from the community was good, there being 74 returns, this represents a return from almost 21% of the total population of 357 and over 25% of the adult population, (292 over the age of 18).

Given that some households choose to respond collectively rather than as individuals; it is also pertinent to consider the number of responses in relation to the number of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The number of responses represents 52% of the 142 households.

This demonstrates the level of commitment to the Neighbourhood Plan by the small community and, in turn, adds strength to the validity of the collected views expressed.

Population data taken from 2011 Census
Q1 What do you like best about Arnesby?

Answered: 73  Skipped: 1

This and subsequent questions were rated on a 5 point scale with 5 being the most favoured. Each bar represents a mean average of all responses received for that particular issue or option.

Each of the characteristics and amenities identified in the question are considered important to respondents, indicating a close correlation with responses from earlier consultation.

The proximity of open countryside to the village of Arnesby, with the countryside reaching into the village, is the thing that respondents like the most about where they live. This is closely
followed, in order of importance, by the fact that the village is separated from other settlements by fields and countryside.

Respondents also showed that local working farms in and around the village are important to them. Facilities such as the pub/restaurant, village hall, church and allotments are also greatly valued. Education facilities too are considered important.

Of slightly less importance are the 14 listed buildings within the Parish and the individually designed houses. Ease of access to major road and rail networks and airports is considered a little less important.

Of least importance to respondents is locally available employment which is, in part, explained by many of those responding being retired.

Twenty additional, wide ranging comments appear in the appendix and focus greatly on the importance of the rural location, the sense of community and the desire for this to remain unspoilt.
Responses generally to the question ‘What sort of housing do you think the village needs?’ demonstrate a reluctance to see significant development of the existing village. However, there is an understanding of the need to provide some additional housing and there was a thoughtful yet diverse range of answers.

Respondents acknowledged that there is a real issue for people, especially the young, in getting onto the property ladder. Consequently, the sort of housing most people felt the village needs is affordable 1 and 2 bed homes. The perceived need for 2 to 3 bedroom housing very probably comes from the same thought process.

Concern for environmental issues is reflected in the importance given to the need for eco-friendly housing.

Bungalows and retirement housing was also a popular option, showing a desire for older people to be able to remain in the Parish as their circumstances and physical needs change.
Q2 What sort of housing do you think the village needs?

Answered: 73  Skipped: 1

14 additional comments appear in the appendix.
Parishioners were informed of the need for the Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan to accommodate at least as many new homes as the Harborough District Council Local Plan. This suggests that there should be between five and seven new homes built up to 2031.

Of the four options offered to parishioners, those responding showed support for the homes being built on a number of smaller sites or single plot developments. Building within existing gardens was supported less (42% opposed).

‘All of the new properties built in one place’ was the easily the least favoured option (78% opposed).
Parishioners were asked to indicate the importance to them of key village facilities. A majority of those responding valued each of them.

The Village Hall and village activities such as the WI and the May Fayre were the most valued – emphasizing again the importance parishioners place on community and the facilities and events which make this real.

The pub, church and school are also perceived to be central to village life and are considered to be the very important.

Q4 How important to you, individually or as a family, are the following village facilities?

Answered: 73   Skipped: 1
Parishioners were given the opportunity to respond to six suggestions, drawn from previous community consultation, about other facilities they would like to see in the village. Five of these received overall support, with the desire for better public transport (80%), a convenience shop (78%) and more trees (75%) being the most widely supported.

An outdoor quiet area (61%) and more play areas (56%) were a little less well supported whilst more allotments was the only option not to receive an overall positive response (36%).

Twelve additional comments appear in the appendix including opinions about the pub, healthcare and outdoor activities.
92% of those responding feel that the village is well served with pre-school educational facilities. A unanimous 100% felt that the primary school serves the community’s needs very well. The importance of the primary school is reflected too in other comments about the village within this questionnaire and in earlier community consultation.

58% of respondents feel that adult education is well served (outside the village). This could be a subject for further consideration to explore what the needs are and how they could be further met, perhaps within the village.
The average number of vehicles owned by responding households is 2 and almost all are parked within the property’s boundary.

Parishioners were given a list of eight issues, which had been identified through earlier consultation. They were asked whether changes are needed.

**Q9 Are changes needed to the following?**

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<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
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<td>Broadband &amp; mobile signals</td>
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<td>HGV/Farm traffic</td>
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The majority of those responding feel that each of the issues required change except for HGV and farm traffic.

Broadband and mobile signals are of greatest concern followed by public transport, the speed of vehicles and roadside and pavement parking. It is clear from this response that the relationship between the community and the vehicles that they use or that pass through is an important issue to address both within and outside of the Neighbourhood Plan, especially as the likely increase in population could add to the issues experienced by the community.
Ten people said that they operate a local business or work from home. Types of business include: Pilates instruction, clinical reflexology, carpenter/builder, clothing manufacturer, accountancy services, postal delivery hub, school/preschool, gardening, heating engineer, homeworking and consultancy work.

It was felt that there are already adequate facilities for business within several buildings across the Parish. However, a request was made for reliable drop-off point for deliveries.

Again, the need for a better broadband and mobile signal was highlighted. One view was that the village would benefit from fibre to the door rather than the current fibre to the box on Lutterworth road, then copper wire to the door.
Responses to demographic questions revealed interesting information. 71% of those responding had no children living in their household. This perhaps suggests a need to secure a more representative view from families and young people. However, the positive responses to questions about the school and affordable housing suggests that those with no children at home are paying careful attention to the needs of families too.

**Q16 How many school children are currently living in your household?**

Answered: 42  Skipped: 32
Respondents indicated that there are 66 people in their collective households who are working, 69 are retired, 15 are students and 3 unemployed.

Q18 How many years have you lived in Arnesby?

Answered: 70  Skipped: 4
17 people responded positively to the questionnaire’s invitation to offer help with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. These people are not named in this analysis but it is assumed that they will be contacted separately.

There were 27 additional comments showing much of thought about the future of the village and a strong desire to retain its rural, friendly character in the context of progress and expansion.

Issues around traffic and parking featured as did a range of thoughtful solutions to the provision of affordable new housing. The full list of comment appears in the appendix.

In summary, a strong response to the Neighbourhood Plan Community Questionnaire has demonstrated a set of clear concerns and preferences amongst the respondents. This offers a good steer to the Parish Council as it progresses with the development of the Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan. These results will be taken into account as part of the evidence gathered to develop the Plan policies.
Appendix

Arnesby Questionnaire: Summary of Individual Comments

NB as well as the formal answers to questions, there were over 70 additional individual comments. These have been listed below.


- Park for the kids in the field.
- Arnesby is a village with a mix of people and trades many who make it a lovely community to be part of.
- People - Friendly - mix of ages - mix of professions etc.
- Excellent and inclusive community spirit.
- The character of Arnesby makes it a very pleasant place to live and any development should not adversely affect that character.
- We need more 2 bed, 1 story homes for the elderly. Like the ones on Lutterworth Rd.
- Having lived in Arnesby for a very long time, I do not want newcomers trying to turn it into another Fleckney, leave it as it is please.
- Peace, quiet and no main road directing to village.
- No through traffic friendly village.
- This has been answered on the basis of what we like about Arnesby and also what we think is best for Arnesby.
- A Village needs to remain a village.
- Traffic by-passes the village unlike other neighbouring villages like Bruntingthorpe. The original Victorian school remains in use and attracts families to come here. Ensure there is space to develop and extend the school; this could be on a new site.
- Peace and quiet (most of the time).
- The smell that constantly is emitted from Pierce's (A5799) farm all year round is not acceptable (I do not like this!).
- Rare position of being complete "cul de sac" village. And general community spirit good.
- Close community feel is very important. Neighbours "look out" for each other. Slow increases in village size over time allows assimilation of new villagers into the existing networks rather than an "us and them" situation.
- Peace and tranquility Community.
- Calm and tranquility.
- Open space within the village is important to, houses with outbuildings, large gardens, orchards, paddocks and greens all add character to a village and differentiate a village from an organically evolved housing estate.
- There is no real employment locally apart from Bruntingthorpe airfield. We need a shop and a proper pub.

Page 5: Comments Regarding Housing. Total: 14
• A residential care home in the village would be an asset.
• Need a variety of different types of housing. Small/affordable/starter homes sound a good idea BUT - quickly outgrown then families need larger homes - usually only "affordable" for the first-time buyer then the price escalates.
• Any future development should include a mixture of all types of housing. Any developments should be small scale.
• The principle sites suitable for development are that in Mill Hill Road, currently the subject of a planning application, and the waste land on Lutterworth Road. Any other development should be infill in the same style as that which has already taken place. It would be advantageous for there to be some affordable housing to provide for young people.
• We think that Allen’s original plans should go ahead. NOT. 3 bigger houses.
• There is little point in having starter houses, per se, as there is no employment or public transport.
• There are a disproportionate number of large houses - the priority is properties of 1-3 bedrooms.
• We like the village as it is.
• We need affordable housing for young and old.

Page 8: Comments Regarding any other facilities in the village. Total: 12

• Pub with good food e.g. convert care home into pub/restaurant.
• Pub with good food
• Traditional Pub
• The recreational facilities are adequate so it is important this field, currently leased to the village for that purpose, be retained, but there should be a playground if a suitable site can be found. Perhaps in the waste land if and when that is developed.
• We are surrounded by fields perfect to relax in.
• Not in favour of a convenience shop, but a deli / cafe selling bread cheeses etc. would be a bonus to the village.
• I want a park please (child's writing)
• Traffic calming on Lutterworth Road, or speed restriction. Footpath along Lutterworth Road to be extended to the gated road to Peatling Magna
• Where possible cars off the road and parked in people's properties
• Just maintain bench areas GP service/clinic e.g. flu jabs
• More play areas, a proper play area would have been nice, but too late for our family, and not enough affordable housing for families to warrant cost. Convenience shop and public transport must be cost effective and I can see demand issues.
• Communal social facilities, e.g. traditional pub.
Would you like to add anything else? Total: 27

- Smaller, more affordable houses encourage more young people in the village as well as downsizing for older residents. Without more smaller homes - Arnesby is in danger of becoming an expensive complex.
- Water pressure - in village and especially at the allotments is very poor. Dogs and cats - need more responsible ownership (referring here to 'poo').
- People should park more considerately in the village, i.e. not on the pavements.
- Parking on the roads and pavements is becoming a problem as well as the speed of traffic on Lutterworth Road with the speed limit being ignored. HGV and farm traffic is not a problem. Parents bringing children to and collecting them from school are causing a problem by parking on the road and pavement. They should park in the field in Lutterworth Road, which is available for that purpose.
- A beautiful village about to be spoiled by unacceptable development.
- retain existing limit of development.
- We moved to Arnesby because it is a quiet, unspoiled village, a quintessential rural village with lots of original characteristic properties.
- The beauty of Arnesby is that it is set in an "envelope" off the main A5199. This is a unique quality which should be maintained in future developments in the village. The village can take the amount of housing that is estimated for, which is sufficient for its continued evolution.
- Arnesby remains within the countryside, is quiet and convenient as long as you have good health, are active and mobile.
- Arnesby is a very friendly and characterful village with a strong community. Any development should support and compliment this.
- We love living in Arnesby. We love the quietness, the friendliness, the safeness for our children, the beauty of the countryside and of the houses. All in a great location and well connected. We wouldn't be opposed to an expansion of the village, if it was done in a tasteful way with interesting and unique new housing, preferably eco housing. The addition of a pub, playground and small shop would be ideal for our family. Equally if nothing changes we would be more than happy!
- Arnesby has many residents who have lived here for 50 years. Those people deserve the respect of keeping the village small and friendly.
- Lovely as it is with only a few minor changes foreseeable in the future. Arnesby is our escape from our working lives. A news agents and a park would be lovely (child's writing).
- LOVE IT!
- The parking outside the school at opening and closing times needs to be addressed. The parents illegally park and create chaos at these times. At the moment Arnesby is a wonderful, quiet, sociable village. Future large housing developments would change that.
- Fantastic rural community.
• Arnesby needs affordable housing not social housing. Flats, 1 bed and 2 bed only.
• Arnesby needs families to live (and preferably work) to produce a housing village that is not a 'dormitory' village; this can be achieved by small scale affordable house building on the edge of the village, not squeezed in.
• Excellent and easy to complete questionnaire.
• The option to downsize and stay within this community might be good for some 5-7 new houses ok in one place but more that 10 houses not in one place.
• Try to retain the community spirit.
• I do not know of any other village I would prefer to live in.
• Great place to live.
• Only lived here just under 2 years and as a family we love it and regard it as a beautiful village to live in.
• The village would benefit from some greens having reinforced edges so that grass can still grow when cars park on them. Dog fouling needs addressing.
• Lovely village which needs to maintain proper rural community spirit.
• Development should not compromise the rural character and village atmosphere.
• It needs to grow to be more viable as a community.
• The rural and community atmosphere is highly important and should be retained and not put at risk by excessive development, which should be limited to support for the elderly and first time buyer affordable housing.
• Thank you.