

MIDSOMER NORTON COMMUNITY PLAN HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER BRIEF

The Midsomer Norton Community Plan Household Survey is being launched on Wednesday 9th October. Below is a selection of questions that we have been asked or that we anticipate may be asked. They have been set out in sections to help you.

COMMUNITY PLAN

Q: What is a Community Plan?

A: A Community Plan is a comprehensive collection of views from residents covering a wide range of issues such as the many aspects of communities, economic development, environment and sustainability and young people. It is developed through consultation and engagement with the community at a range of levels including individual and organisational. It is a living document that sets out a shared vision of the whole community for their future.

Q: How is a Community Plan produced?

A: Usually through a series of community consultations including a survey which is led by the community and managed by a Town or Parish Council. After having identified the key issues, the survey is used to gather the community's views which are then analysed and an action plan is produced. The plan is then tested again through consultation and the final action plan is put forward for adoption.

Q: Why produce a Community Plan?

A: Central Government wants local people to decide what's best for their own communities. Local authorities use Community Plans to help shape policy development, planning and service delivery. Midsomer Norton Town Council intends to develop a Neighbourhood Plan which will be tested with the community through a referendum and can then be used to shape planning policy and service delivery.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Q: What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A: A Neighbourhood Plan is used to set out broad planning policies for the development and use of land in that neighbourhood.

Q: How is a Neighbourhood Plan produced?

A: It is produced by a Town or Parish Council and has to be checked independently that it meets the national standards. It can be drawn from key aspects of the Community Plan but it has to be approved by the electorate in a referendum before it can be made legally binding. It is then compulsory for planning authorities to consider future applications against the neighbourhood plan.

THE COMMUNITY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Q: How many homes are being sent a survey form?

A: All homes in the electoral area of Midsomer Norton are being sent a survey form that should be completed with as many of the occupants being present as possible so that the response reflects all views in the household.

Q: When does the survey close?

A: The survey closes on 31st October 2013.

Q: How do I return my questionnaire?

A: There are collections boxes at 15 locations and these are set out on the back page of the questionnaire.

Q: What will be done with the questionnaires?

A: They will be analysed but no information will be attributed to a single household – the only part of the forms containing house details will be removed as soon as they are received back and the slips will be entered in to a prize draw. If you wish to remove the slip and return the questionnaire you can do so but you will not be entered in to the prize draw.

Q: When will the results be known?

A: Analysis of the 5000+ questionnaires will be undertaken throughout November and December and we hope to be able to publish the results in early 2014.

Q: What do I do if I find it difficult to complete the questionnaire?

A: Contact the Town Council Offices on 01761 418701 for advice and support in completing the survey.

Q: Can I post the survey form?

A: Yes – please post it to the Town Council if you wish to – the address is: Town Hall, The Island, Midsomer Norton, BATH, BA3 2HQ. But there are lots of collection boxes where you can return the form for free – see the back page for details!