

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## RESIDENTS' SURVEY

## THE RESULTS ARE IN!



In April, we sent a questionnaire to every house in Broomfield (approx. 1,750). We had 493 replies, reflecting the views of almost 800 people. Here are some quick headlines – a fuller report will be put on our website [www.broomfieldessex.co.uk/np](http://www.broomfieldessex.co.uk/np) in the next few weeks.

### WHAT YOU SAID

- **People love living in Broomfield** – 97% want to stay here if their circumstances permit!
- Over 90% said they liked living in a village, the closeness to Chelmsford and its facilities, their friends and neighbours; and 100% said they liked the closeness to open countryside
- The only major dislike is **the level of traffic** (94%). A large majority of journeys by residents are made by car, but a significant majority also said they would consider making more use of cycling, walking and the buses if the conditions were right
- All suggestions for reducing **the impact of through traffic** were supported (e.g. signposting hospital traffic along Essex Regiment Way). So were 20 mph zones and speed cushions to reduce speed in small/residential roads
- 100% said it was important that **Broomfield is surrounded by countryside**, with over 90% citing the tranquillity, opportunity for recreation, openness, wildlife, views and the natural break between Broomfield and other settlements
- When asked to prioritise **the 3 areas of countryside people most like and want to protect**, the following areas got the most mentions:  
west of Church Green (G), east of Hospital Approach (A) and the gap between Broomfield and Chelmsford (F); also the farmland west and north of the village (H) and the Mill Lane area (B). See the map in the questionnaire for the exact areas.

- Broomfield's **historic buildings** are important to 98% of people. Planting more trees/flowers and keeping green spaces mown/tidy help to make the village look attractive
- When offered some different views about the **design and planning of buildings**, the following got the most support (though not necessarily over 50%):
  - New buildings should fit in with surrounding buildings, provided the surrounding buildings look attractive
  - Generally new buildings should be of traditional design
  - New houses should be spread out , with plenty of space in between
  - Generally new houses and buildings should be limited to 2 storeys
  - Blocks of apartments are not acceptable
  - Smaller gardens are okay, provided there is communal open space within 2 minutes' walk
  - New houses should generally be built in small cul-de-sacs, with a maximum of around 25 houses in each.
- If Broomfield has to accommodate **more housing**, the most acceptable types would be: small family homes, retirement houses for the active retired, bungalows and affordable starter homes
- 37% of responses thought at least one type of housing should be built anyway – the most common suggestion being small family homes
- If Broomfield has to accommodate **more housing**, converting/replacing some existing commercial/industrial accommodation is the most acceptable option, followed by small sites (up to 50 dwellings) on the edge of the current settlement. Large greenfield sites in the countryside are the **least** desirable option
- 53% think that the **current local facilities** in Broomfield are sufficient
- 83% think we should continue to work on the current plans for **an expanded primary school**; 95% think we should continue to work on plans for **a network of cycle paths** away from main roads.

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**It's Your Village, Have Your Say**  
ON BROOMFIELD'S FUTURE

