

Progress on the Updated Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you again to everyone for taking part in the second ranking preferences survey on possible new housing sites and for contributing further comments.

Over 200 responses were received this time, which although less than the first survey, still meant that a reasonable number of local people decided to have a further say on where the new houses should be located in and around the village.

Local preferences for the location of new housing in and around Findon is one of the fundamental democratic opportunities available to a community who want to prepare an updated Neighbourhood Plan to include housing site allocations for the 2018 - 2035 period of the Plan.

Here is a summary of the second ranking preferences survey:

1. Part of the former allotments north of the Quadrangle (10 dwellings and allotments)
2. Part of the paddock at the southern end of the Garden Centre (12 houses)
3. Former Fire Station (5 flats)
4. Paddock north of Nightingales (10 houses and flats)
5. Small part of Monarchs Way field (11 houses, funding the replacement of the pre school)
6. Atalanta/Mayland site (4(net) houses and flats)

Locations 1 and 2 received significantly more than half the total response although there was little difference between preferences for the two locations. The south west end of the village, on the other side of the A24, is clearly still a favoured location for some new housing, in line with the first ranking survey results.

There was no statistically significant difference in preferences between locations 4 and 5. However as the Village Hall Trust have not given any indication that they would wish to meaningfully engage in discussions to improve the access to location 5 from the High Street via part of the car park or verge, during the period of the updated Neighbourhood Plan, this location can no longer be considered 'deliverable', an important criteria when allocating housing sites, at the next formal stage of the updated Neighbourhood Plan process, the publication of the Regulation 14 Pre Submission version.

The Working Group have now finalised this Regulation 14 Pre Submission version which includes housing site allocations informed by the ranking preference surveys. It has been ratified by the Parish Council and will be published, for formal consultation by statutory bodies like the SDNPA, Arun DC, WSCC, Historic England and more, local people, businesses and landowners, by the end of February. It will be available to view on the FPC and Findon Village websites with hard copies at the Community Store and other local venues, together with details of how you can make further comments and give support during this statutory six week consultation period.