

Introduction

The following report is intended to provide an overview summary of the consultation responses to the Local Plan publication period, 12th September 2014 and 31 October 2014. In excess of 420 responses were received to the Local Plan and Draft SHLAA consultation documents.

A comprehensive extension to the consultation up to 24 December 2014 was also undertaken to allow additional time for local resident groups to submit their views and thoughts. This is primarily in response to difficulty arranging suitable neighbourhood meetings and presentations within the original period and concerns raised by some neighbourhood groups about their understanding and awareness of the plan.

Table 1: Engagement Overview and Results

Area of Engagement	Feedback Summary
Media engagement	<p>A range of media activity was undertaken over the course of the public engagement process. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interview with Touch FM as part of the Earlsdon library drop in session; • Focused Twitter discussions with Councillor Maton and Council officers; • A 4 page special in the September/October edition of City Vision; • A range of leaflets, info-graphics and promotional material made available in local libraries and council buildings; • The creation of a new Local Plan website; • The conducting of a sample telephone and face to face survey targeted at how Coventry citizens interpret and understand the Local Plan and its importance to the city's future development of prosperity; and • Other correspondence in local newspapers, radio and social media; <p>Much of the media activity generated emails, phone calls and letters to the Council's Planning Policy team commenting on the Local Plan in more generic terms. Much of this engagement was focused on a number of key themes, including the need for development of Green Belt land, site/area specific issues and detailed enquiries around the population projections and housing numbers. The most common area of engagement in terms of emails and phone calls resulted from residents in the Keresley area expressing particular concern around the potential development of Green Belt land.</p> <p>The sample survey process identified that a quarter of people asked were aware of the Local Plan, however the survey also highlighted different aspects of the plan in terms of importance and these ranked as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. employment ;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. green space; 3. city centre; and 4. housing <p>It is worth noting however that despite increased media coverage and promotional material, engagement through emails and phone calls has been lower than expected, especially when compared to previous consultation activities relating to the Local Plan (or Core Strategy as it was previously known).</p> <p>In the initial feedback presented to Scrutiny Board 3 the report identified engagement having taken place through a range of media. The list below adds further clarity to this initial list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific articles in Coventry Telegraph (online and in print, including articles and letters) • Articles in the Coventry Observer • News stories, interviews and discussion items on BBC Coventry and Warwickshire and local music stations including Touch FM and Free Radio • Information included through the Councils beacon email updates and webpages • Posting and emailing of letters and notifications regarding the period of public engagement to 900 contacts on the community engagement database and 850 contacts on the planning consultation database. <p>Engagement through emails and phone calls increased significantly in the final week of the official engagement process and continued to be high during the first week of the extension period in particular. The majority of this engagement focused around possible Green Belt development options within the Bablake ward.</p> <p>To support the initial report a graphical representation of the results of the telephone survey are included in Appendix 1. This website included a response section allowing stakeholders to submit their views and thoughts. This generated 273 responses, and in summary the majority of these responses were objections to the plan, with 59% of responses particularly focused on objecting to the loss of Green Belt within Bablake Ward.</p>
<p>Ward Forums and Community Meetings</p>	<p>In addition to ward forums 5 additional presentations had been made to community groups and other interested parties. In the final week of the engagement process Allesley Parish Council, Keresley Parish Council and Eastern Green Residents Association submitted a joint request for a further public meeting and presentation of the Local Plan. Further requests were also received from the Walsgrave Community forum and Henley Neighbourhood Forum.</p> <p>The first of these additional sessions was hosted jointly by Allesley Parish Council, Keresley Parish Council and Eastern Green Residents Association. This session was attended by</p>

	<p>approximately 150 local residents, making it the best attended. The session focused on the principle of, and overall need for, Green Belt development as well as possible development opportunities within the Bablake ward. Concerns were also expressed regarding the perceived lack of public engagement and lack of availability of the relevant documentation.</p> <p>Community meetings for the Walsgrave Community forum and Henley Neighbourhood Forum are to be held in the coming days and weeks.</p> <p>The report also provided an initial overview of responses received from Coventry's neighbouring authorities and how this relates to the Duty to Cooperate. Of particular note here was the reference to North Warwickshire Borough Council. Further discussions have taken place with NWBC and that reassurances have been made that NWBC remains fully committed to working constructively and effectively with Coventry City Council in the development of its Local Plan. In addition further responses have been received from Stratford on Avon District Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Birmingham City Council and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. Each of these responses reflects the importance of the Duty to Cooperate and provide respective commitments to on-going joint working and effective and constructive engagement.</p>
<p>Local Plan Drop-in Sessions</p>	<p>No further drop in sessions were held after the completion of the initial report for Scrutiny board 3.</p>

In addition to the feedback set out above, the final week of the official engagement process resulted in numerous representations being made from the following groups:

- professional planning consultants including: Pegasus Planning, Savills, Barton Willmore, Bidwells, Oxallis Planning, D2 Planning and CgMs
- National house builders including: Bloor Homes
- National Professional Associations and Quango's including: The House Builders Federation, English Heritage, The Environment Agency, Natural England and the Highways Agency
- Local organisations and representatives including, the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.
- Town and Parish Councils and Residents Associations within Coventry and Warwickshire including: Kenilworth Town Council, Keresley Parish Council, Allesley Parish Council, Fillongly Parish Council, Corley Parish Council, Eastern Green Residents Association and Ash Green Residents Association.

By way of general summary, the professional planning consultants and national house builders wished to see development opportunities within Coventry maximised, with some identifying new sites through the SHLAA. They also raised targeted concerns around the Councils housing land supply and the deliverability of some of the brownfield sites contained

in the SHLAA. Further concerns were raised around the Duty to cooperate and infrastructure delivery.

There were also areas of the draft Plan that garnered support and identified issues to be overcome. These included responses from the Environment Agency, for example, who requested the Council, undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study. This work has subsequently been done to ensure a robust and comprehensive evidence base and ensure the Council discharges its responsibilities through the Duty to Cooperate. In addition, English Heritage were in support of the draft Heritage policy approach and the direction of travel such policies were likely to be taking.

Parish Councils were in general support, however, those adjacent to the Coventry boundary clearly stated they did not want the city to merge with their Parish areas. However, it was recognised that this is beyond the Councils control as they are outside the administrative area, but were comforted that the Council would work constructively with them to achieve sustainable patterns of growth.

An e-petition was also submitted to recognise that there is wholly inadequate infrastructure to support any form of increased residential development in the Allesley Green, Parkhill, and Eastern Green areas within Woodlands Ward, and to be cognisant of such matters in the approval of the final Core Strategy and Coventry Development Plan, and when considering any Planning Applications in this area. This was supported by a City Councillor which gained 51 signatories.

Responses were received from Professional Associations, Quango's and local organisations tended to focus on their own respective specialist areas including transport policy, biodiversity and ecology, flood risk, housing need and conservation and heritage policy.

Local Warwickshire Town and Parish Councils primarily focused on the relationship Coventry has with Warwickshire and the impact development in Coventry may have on these neighbouring areas. Responses from Parish Councils and Residents Associations within Coventry were reflective of the objections previously raised at ward forums.

Table 2 below sets out the main issues stakeholders raised and how the Council has listened to all views that were expressed as part of the consultation process.

Table 2: Local Plan Issues Overview

You said	We did
Lack of suitable infrastructure to deliver the growth	A bespoke infrastructure development plan has been prepared to fully cost and identify all types of infrastructure across the city together with a commitment to introduce CIL
More jobs for local people	As a Council we are working with new business partners trying to attract more new business to the city. This has included the shopping developments at Airport Retail Park and the city centre where new job opportunities have specifically gone to Coventry people.
Make parking more friendly for people to enjoy and stay in City centre longer	Implementing more multi storey car parks; Reviewing our price strategy for city centre

	<p>parking. As an example from now on there is a free parking after 18:00 at Salt Lane car park.</p>
<p>Policy could be more proactive on tourism</p>	<p>The Council will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to improve tourism and links between key assets.</p>
<p>Improved public space and health facilities</p>	<p>New Swanswell Park project with improved children play area and fitness equipment is just one example of the continued direction of travel going forward.</p>
<p>More family homes</p>	<p>We are working with our partners to bring more residential development across the city in line with the Housing Needs Survey for current and new residents.</p>
<p>Considerable loss of Green Belt land in Bablake Ward and generally across the entire city.</p>	<p>Council has to meet the development needs of the city and whilst some Green Belt land would be lost, it would only represent 10% of the entire Green Belt across the city.</p> <p>In addition, new areas of local green space will be designated enabling greater access to areas for recreational use.</p>
<p>Consultation should be held in different way with more information provided by the Council</p>	<p>We have been consulting on the Local plan since 2005 in many exhaustive ways. We arranged and visited every ward forum; public meetings and drop-in sessions in local libraries also we used media and radio as an option to contact residents, key stakeholders and other interested parties.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding traffic, pressure on local amenities and increased crime level in the new development areas.</p>	<p>We are working close with highways, police and our partners to make sure that the new development is delivered in right way including safe environment new traffic management schemes and design which includes natural surveillance.</p>

Headline results of Local Plan engagement process that relate to the responses submitted through the Local Plan website.

NB: This information relates to responses received through the Councils online response form, throughout the period of public engagement.

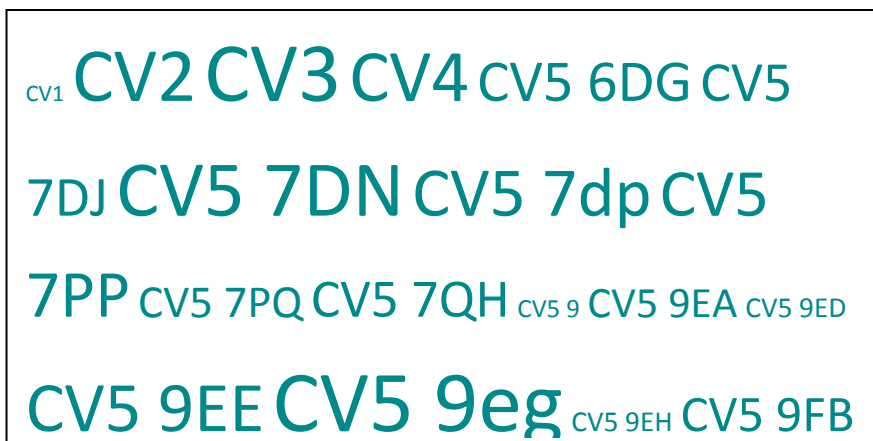
NB: A full report is to be completed in due course

- Q1 What do you think of Coventry's Local Plan

Response theme	No. of respondents
Support Coventry's Local Plan	25
Not sure	4
Oppose – Allesley/Eastern Green/Bablake concerns	161
Oppose – general	37
Oppose – should utilise existing housing/brownfield sites	15
Oppose – Infrastructure issues	14
Oppose – wildlife/countryside/greenbelt issues	8
Oppose – Cromwell Lane/Duggins Lane	3
Oppose – Immigration issues	3
Oppose – Sport England	1
Oppose – Heritage Policy	1
Oppose – Baginton	1
Total	273

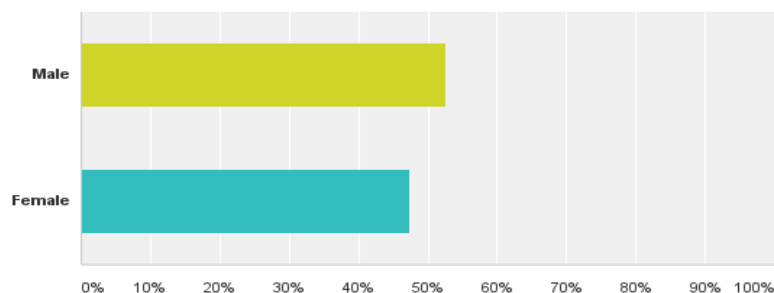
Q2 What is your postcode?

The larger the Post Code the more popular it appeared in the responses submitted.



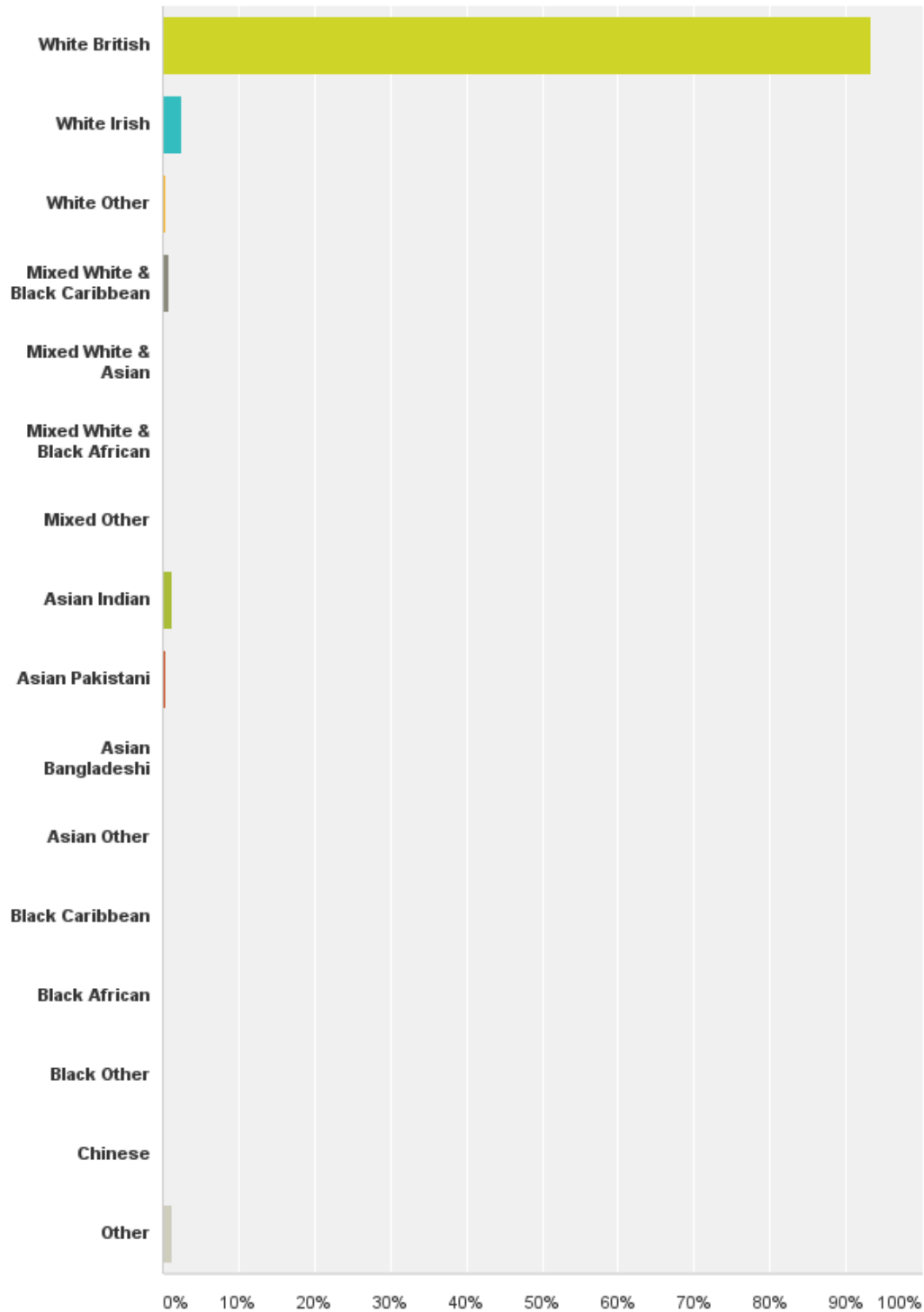
Q3 Gender:

Answered: 253 Skipped: 21



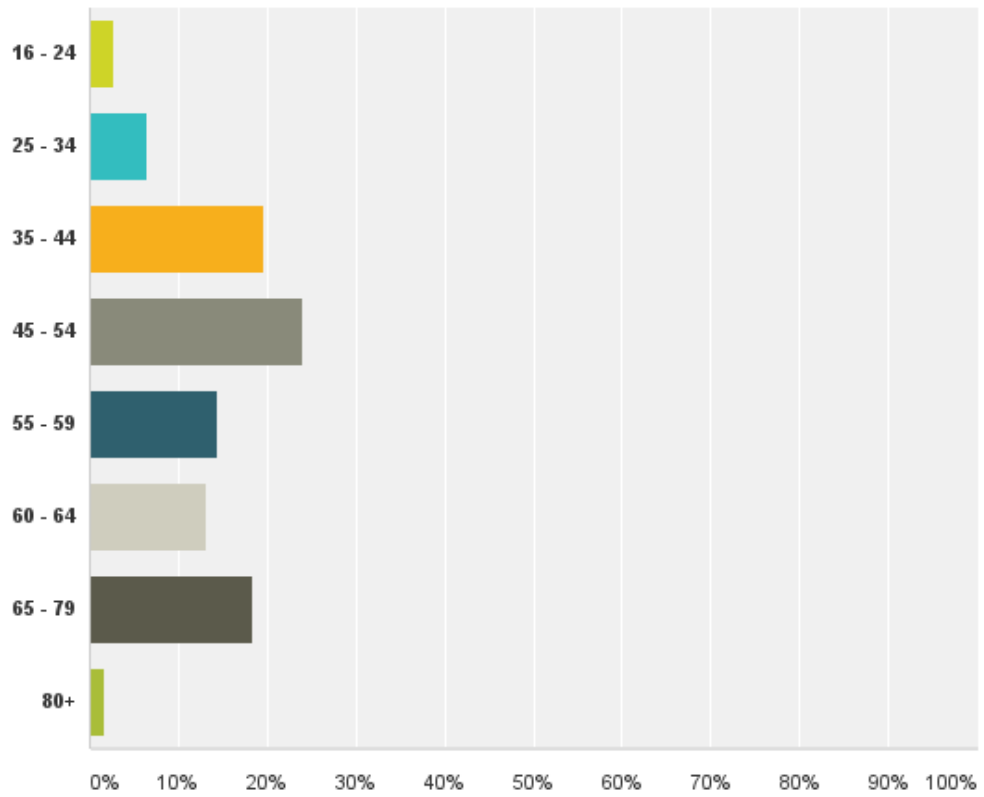
Q4 How would you describe your ethnic background?

Answered: 243 Skipped: 31



Q5 How old are you?

Answered: 251 Skipped: 23



Q6 Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 25

