

Axminster NE Urban Extension

December Public Consultation summary of feedback

A second public consultation was held at the beginning of December to present the preferred masterplan and outline the work that had taken place since the last consultation to arrive at this position.

A feedback form was provided to all individuals attending the consultation event with questions which correlated with the information provided on the boards and in many cases which were discussed one to one and in groups among those attending and the professional and client team present on the day.

The following is an initial brief summary of the feedback received structured under each of the headings (and an additional 'other' category) to help inform the decision making around how to respond to the feedback received from the public at the event. At this stage no work has been carried out among the project team, or on the masterplan material itself to amend the proposals in order to incorporate any of the comments received by the public as these will need to be assessed and measured against other constraints and objectives of the masterplan process.

96 hand written, completed feedback forms were received with nearly all sheets including additional written comments unrelated to the headline question or as extra information on the blank side of the paper. The table below gives an initial summary of the main issues highlighted and the number of responses falling broadly into each area:

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| 1. The North East Urban Extension Area: | | |
| The requirement for more housing than the Local Plan indicates, in order to fund the relief road has been explained. What you think of the way the masterplan deals with this? | | |
| A | Responses broadly considered the masterplan a good solution | 19 |
| B | Responses generally positive but comments relating to mix and tenure | 31 |
| C | Responses generally unsatisfied that more housing is required | 16 |
| D | Generally negative responses related to non -masterplan specific issues such as A35 safety, Weycroft bridge etc | 19 |
| E | No Response to this question | 12 |
| 2. Green Spaces: | | |
| The masterplan includes a variety of public space and provision of green space. What types of activities and uses would you like to see included in the green space? | | |
| A | Generally supportive of green space proposals | 7 |
| B | Childrens Play Area | 21 |
| C | Sports Pitches, and other formal facilities, athletics track Tennis Courts, Swimming pool | 20 |
| D | Dog walking areas | 7 |

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| E | Integrated Green Infrastructure, SUDS, parkland, footpath links, green routes etc | 19 |
| F | Areas left wild or as existing | 17 |
| G | **No Response to this question | 29 |

3. Local Centre:

The masterplan shows a Local Centre serving the needs of the local community and providing employment space for the town. What uses do you think should be included at the Local Centre?

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| A | Generally supportive of the Local Centre proposals | 2 |
| B | Convenience store/post office | 17 |
| C | Doctors Surgery/other healthcare facilities/community facilities | 33 |
| D | Restaurants/food outlets/other leisure | 12 |
| E | Range of employment suggestions eg. Business start up space/more employment space | 17 |
| F | No Local Centre Required | 20 |
| G | **No Response to this question | 28 |
| H | Supermarket | 6 |

4. Character Areas:

The masterplan indicates a variety of residential character areas which include different house types arranged in different ways. Please let us know what you think of the character areas?

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| A | Generally supportive of the Character Areas | 23 |
| B | Contemporary design -avoid pastiche | 1 |
| C | Variety | 7 |
| D | Affordable Housing | 9 |
| E | Suspicion that design will inevitably change | 6 |
| F | Various detail design preferences eg. No flat roofs, bungalows, space, trees | 17 |
| G | **No Response to this question | 41 |
| H | Generally dissatisfied with design (varied reasons) | 12 |

** High proportions of responses which did not provide any feedback to particular questions. Nearly all included additional information on areas of concern outside of the scope of this masterplan (A35 junction, alternative relief road alignments west, or north, and others) or objected to principles established at previous Local Plan stages, eg housing location and allocation, employment provision/ quantity and concerns over other town wide issues. Non responses may suggest an unwillingness to engage on more masterplan specific issues such as Local Centre Design, Green Space and Character of Neighbourhoods for fear of appearing to endorse of the masterplan principles.

Of the 96 responses received, 55 included additional comments to those contributed under the previous questions. These additional comments covered a variety of issues. Many included more than one of the following issues:

If you have other comments please turn over and use the blank page for further comments:

Relief Road should consider a different route including: Bypassing Weycroft Bridge, west of town alignment

Proposals should include junction modification at the the A35, right turn not safe/possible

Concern over housing provision more widely -district/nationally

Concern over other wider transport/network issues

Concern over town wide employment sustaianability

Concern over integration with the town and competition

Desires to consider regeneration of the existing town centre alongside the masterplan of UE

Concern over continuity of current proposals with future design work