

WILLASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES FROM RESIDENTS SURVEY 2015

Q1. What do you like about Willaston ?

A majority of respondents said that they liked the “village feel” and the good community spirit, and there was a general perception of Willaston being a safe and peaceful place to live. Some respondents also commented favourably on the flower displays around the village and other amenities including the playing field and local clubs.

Q2. What do you dislike about Willaston ?

The overriding concern coming through from the responses was one of overdevelopment in terms of new housing, closely followed by traffic issues including speeding, parking problems, and the use of certain roads as “rat runs.” There were also several negative comments about dog fouling in the village.

Q3. What opportunities are there for the future of Willaston ?

The subject which received most comment was the need to develop robust planning policies in order to prevent unplanned development. There was a general feeling that Willaston should retain its village status and maintain its separate identity from surrounding towns. Some people would like to see more shops in the village and others would like to see bus services improved and the railway station re-opened.

Q4. What threats are there to the future of Willaston ?

The vast majority of responses to this question centred around residents` concerns about potential overdevelopment and the threat to the Green Gap which separates Willaston from Crewe and Nantwich. The other recurring response was a concern about traffic congestion.

Q5. This is our vision for Willaston : By 2030 Willaston will be a thriving and distinctive village located within the Green Gap which will evolve and grow in a sustainable way and will be a place where people can live, retire, work, play and enjoy a high quality of life.

On a scale of 1 to 10 (low to high) how strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement ?

104 out of 140 respondents (74%) answered this question with a score of 7 or higher. There were very few scores of lower than 5. This represents a broad agreement to the vision statement.

Q6. What type of place would you like Willaston to be by 2030 ?

The responses to this question were very much in line with the vision statement above, with the majority of respondents wanting to see Willaston as a thriving village within the Green Gap. Some respondents said that they would just like to see the village remain as it is now. Others included comments about the need for good transport links.

Q7. On a scale of 1-10 (low to high) how important are the following issues to you ?

- (a) Housing** – 102 out of 147 respondents (69%) answered this question with a score of 7 or higher. However, it is clear from their written comments that some of those who answered this question with a low score had misinterpreted the question, in the sense that additional housing was not an important requirement for them. For example, one respondent gave this a score of 1, but in response to questions 8 and 9 below was adamant that there should be no further development in Willaston. There were several others who gave a low score, but whose written comments clearly identified them as having strong views on any further development. Overall, it is clear that housing is an important issue for the vast majority of respondents.
- (b) Jobs & Economy** – 82 out of 148 respondents (55%) answered this question with a score of 7 or higher. There was a wide range of responses to this question and whilst it is clearly important to some people, it is equally clearly of very little importance to others. This is probably a reflection of the age range within the village. Overall, this came out as the least important of the issues listed.
- (c) Transport and Roads** – 132 out of 147 respondents (90%) answered this question with a score of 7 or higher and there were very few low scores. It is clearly an important issue.
- (d) Leisure/Recreation** – 100 out of 148 respondents (68%) answered this question with a score of 7 or higher.
- (e) The Natural Environment** – 139 out of 148 respondents (94%) answered this question with a score of 7 or higher. The majority of respondents actually answered with score of 10 to this question and overall it came out as the second most important issue after Preserving the Green Gap.
- (f) Infrastructure** – 125 out of 147 respondents (85%) answered this question with a score of 7 or higher.
- (g) Preserving the Green Gap** – 143 out of 148 respondents (97%) answered this question with a score of 7 or higher. The vast majority answered with a score of 10. Overall, this is the most important issue to respondents.

Q8. What type of new development would you object to in Willaston ?

The main objections mentioned by respondents were large housing developments, any development within the Green Gap, and the development of industrial units.

Q9. What type of new development would you support in Willaston ?

Whilst there are some respondents who would not support any type of development in the village, there are others who would support some small scale development outside of the Green Gap, particularly affordable housing for first time buyers.

Q10. What should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan for Willaston ?

Most respondents would like to see the inclusion of a robust policy to protect the Green Gap from development. A significant number of respondents would like to see a commitment to improve the roads and pavements within the village and some mentioned the management of green spaces. There were some requests for a community centre to be included within the plan.