

SECOND PUBLIC MEETING

SPEAKING NOTES

INTRODUCTION

VMT for coming

Comment on numbers attending

Remind about 2nd meeting on next Monday for those unable to attend tonight

Sorry about no refreshments but there will be questions afterwards

Aim of this Meeting

Two Aims:

To brief you on the results of the Analysis of the First Questionnaire

To encourage people to take part in the work of the Focus Groups about which, more later

First Questionnaire

145 replies received - around 24% of the number sent out. This is quite a good result bearing in mind that over 70 of our 586 potential voters are in Lynhales and of whom none participated.

The Analysis has been extremely useful, showing definite majorities in most sections and specific wants or dislikes as appropriate in other sections. There is a consistent thread running through the answers as a whole.

Analysis of the First Questionnaire

The Analysis contains a huge amount of information and statistics. **Show the Book.** I will keep my talk reasonably brief so that we can have time for questions afterwards. I will therefore cover only the main findings of the Analysis and will have to do a certain amount of abbreviation and generalisation where necessary.

I have, however, got some good slides to show which will help to bring out the points I am making.

MAIN FINDINGS

POPULATION

1. **(S1)** This slide shows respondents' views on how the population of the Civil Parish should change. 50% thought the population should gradually increase in numbers and 41% think the population should stay the same.
2. **(S2)** 65% of respondents consider the village has a good mix of ages but 26% think that older people predominate.

3. **(S3)** This slide shows that 58% of the respondents think that Lyonshall works well as a community - but note that 21% say it doesn't and another 20% don't know!
4. **(S4)** As you can see from this slide 75% of the respondents foresee Lyonshall continuing to be mainly a residential/dormitory village.

Comments on Population Section - (47 separate comments were received)

A number are not in favour of the population increasing but most felt that there would be benefit in a younger social mix.

HOUSING

Where should they be?

5. **(S5)** This slide shows that, if new houses are to be built, people consider they should be spread between the centre of the village of Lyonshall and the wider Civil Parish. If, in the next Questionnaire, the community votes to do away with the Village Development Boundary, this will basically mean houses will be able to be built anywhere within the Civil Parish as approved by the Parish Council.
6. **(S6)** This question asked 'If homes are to be built in the wider parish then where would your preference be?' 122 people answered this question, 65 of whom expressed some kind of preference from the options given. The remaining 57 either expressed 'no preference' (48) or chose 'other' (9). This meant that only a small majority therefore had real views on this but Holmes Marsh turned out to be the most favoured site, followed by Woonton Ash and Penrhos or Penrhos Common. 15 respondents also sent in written comments on this question, a very slight majority of whom were in favour of keeping the development within the village.
7. **(S7)** If new houses are to be built within the village of Lyonshall, people thought the best sites for development would be using ad hoc infill, followed by building on the A480 going south, and also eastwards towards Bryncurl and the A44. The A480 going North towards the church was also quite popular.

How many should be built?

8. **(S8)** Over recent years an average of two new houses have been built per year. 62% of respondents thought that this was about the right rate of increase. This is the number likely to be required by the Herefordshire Core Strategy.

What types of houses should they be?

9. **(S9)** If new homes are to be built during the next 20-30 years then, in order of preference, people thought that these should consist of private semi-detached/terraced houses with 2 to 3 bedrooms, detached 3 to 4 bedroom executive homes and then houses with workshops attached for cottage industries. There were 16 written comments under 'Other' which mainly supported this view.

Preferences for building priorities

10. **(S10)** 57% of respondents gave first priority to restoring and updating current housing stock. Second preference was to convert disused barns and other existing redundant buildings and third preference was to allow local people to self-build for their own use. The fourth was for new-builds on suitable land within Government guidelines.

Housing Comments Section - (45 comments made)

11. These comments showed there were many mixed views on where and how many new houses are needed. There was some support for allowing housing on farms for employees. People were keen that affordable housing and homes for the elderly should only be built if they would be for Lyonshall people

HOUSING DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Housing Design

12. **(S12)** If houses were to be built, 42% of respondents wanted development to take place on different sites as requirements arise. 41% felt that development should be a mix between different sites and small residential developments on a single site. The inference is that people do not want large 'Estates' of new houses.

13a. **(S13a)** If several houses are to be built as a group then 82% recorded that they should be of a mixture of sizes, on plots of different sizes - not all the same.

13b. **(S13b)** Similarly, if several houses are to be built as a group then 57% thought they should also be a mixture of styles

14. **(S14)** This slide indicates that Traditional 'stone faced' exteriors were the most preferred style followed by 'Tudorbethan' timber framed, and half-timbered or rendered black and white cottage style.

15. **(S15)** 88% recorded that all houses should have gardens.

16. **(S16)** 63% said all houses should have garages and/or off road parking.

Housing Design comments - (41 comments made)

17. In addition to the comments I have just described, all new housing should blend with the types of housing already in Lyonshall. More off-road parking is badly needed. There was also support for energy saving types of houses.

BUSINESS AND TOURISM

Business

18. **(S18)** In answer to whether we should have a plan for commercial development, only 39% were in favour, with 37% against. Only a very marginal majority. 23% did not know. Views were mixed on where commercial activity should take place.

19. We asked what sort of businesses you would like to see in the parish? **54 comments were received.** Most were asking for a village shop and a Post Office but many others were in favour of a Farm Shop, Farmer's Market and other craft based small businesses. Overall, respondents do not seem keen on having any businesses larger than light industrial or small crafts and perhaps a garage/motor mechanic.

20. **57 comments received** where you would like to see commercial units built if required? If this is included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan, it was suggested that small, light industrial units could possibly be situated in the vicinity of Burgoyne's and craft based units nearer the village centre. A few of these could perhaps be based on farms.

Tourism

21. **(S21)** Should Lyonshall encourage tourism? 78% supported encouraging tourism.

22. **(S22)** If yes, what is required? **115 people answered this question of which 107 expressed some kind of preference for the options given.** In summary, people felt we could encourage more tourists by offering more B&B, hotel, Inn accommodation or holiday lets and by better marketing.

Comments on the Business and Tourism section (38 comments received)

Ideas for local support for tourism centred mainly on making more of local walks, Offa's Dyke, Lyonshall Castle and possibly a fishing lake.

There is not enough parking in Lyonshall village at present to be able to accommodate tourist visitors.

AMENITIES AND SERVICES

Village Shop/Post Office

23. **(S23)** If there was a Village Shop/Post office how would you use it? 85% of respondents would use it mainly for convenience shopping.

Village Pub

24. **(S24)** 72% said the Pub is very necessary or vital by the community and 26% said it was quite necessary or desirable.

Other retail outlets

25. Are there any other retail outlets you would support in Lyonshall. **(81 comments were received)** Support for other retail outlets was for a café, a Farm Shop, a Farmer's market or weekly produce Market and for a craft shop.

Important additional amenities

26. What are the most important additional amenities that Lyonshall needs? (168 comments received on 6 identified priorities) The main priority was thought to be for a new or extended and updated Village Hall and a shop/Post Office. The second and third priorities were very varied and showed no strong preferences. They included some of the first priority subjects, a recreational area for youth activities such as football, cricket and skateboarding and some sort of youth centre. Fourth priority included public toilets, car parking, café, camp site, youth centre and tennis courts

Comments on Amenities and Services - 25 comments received

27. The comments were very varied and included such things as allotments, pavements, seats on footpaths, café, the need for tourist attractions and garden waste collection.

I feel we are most unlikely to find anyone to run a Village Shop/Post Office because the profit from the venture is most unlikely to provide a living wage. There might, however, be enough public spirited volunteers in Lyonshall to run a properly constituted Community shop which could be a broad combination of a Village shop, Post Office, perhaps a café and which could also sell farm produce and/or surplus vegetables from people's gardens. Any profits after the payment of rates and other overheads would go to the benefit of the community. The Steering Group will investigate this in the Focus Groups.

FARMING

Farming and Agri-business

28. (S28) We asked if people's lives were affected by farming? The answers were generally very supportive of farming and farmers. They showed that mud, noise, smell, slow traffic and quite a few other inconveniences are all accepted and even enjoyed as very much part of living in the countryside. This slide does show the analysis of what people actually think and is food for thought, but there are no serious issues.

Farmer's supply of food and energy

29. (S29) Do you feel farmers are well placed to supply food and energy? This is quite an interesting slide. Respondents did seem to want farmers to grow more food. 30 comments were received on this item. Most wanted more organic farming, less intensive farming, more food crops for human consumption, less food imported from abroad. The answers about supplying food to the local area were probably influenced by the lack of a local farm shop and the desire for a farmers' market.

Respondents wanted farmers to pursue local solar energy production projects but were not in favour of wind turbines - small or large!

The question of the production of energy for the communal benefit of the residents of the Civil Parish may well be worth examining in more detail in the Focus Groups. There was quite a lot of support for communal solar energy production from

respondents who also appreciated that the implementation of such a scheme might be difficult.

Types of farming you would like to see encouraged

30. Are there types of farming which should be encouraged in the parish? **59 comments were received.** Many respondents favoured organic farming but virtually all considered that the decision on whether to farm organically was up to the farmers.

36 comments were received on farming and agriculture -

31. There were many favourable comments on farmers and farming in answer to this 'open' question although a few farmers who commented indicated that they felt that they had been got at. A few respondents were not in favour of chicken farming but realised the need for the affordable food it provides.

A large number of comments were received on all the sections shown, mostly very supportive. However, the spraying of chemicals and insecticides near to dwellings worried some people for health reasons and could cause noise too early or late in the day. Some mentioned that they would appreciate slow moving tractors pulling into a lay-by when a number of vehicles are held up behind them - some drivers are very good about this but some are less so.

UTILITIES

Localised renewable energy supply

32. **(S32)** Is there a need for a green renewable energy supply for the general benefit of local residents? **125 respondents expressed some kind of preference for the options given.** This slide shows relatively strong support for three sources of renewable energy.

a. Solar panels on poultry house and similar roofs. Respondents are strongly in favour of this wherever possible and practicable.

b. Solar panels in a designated field. Might conceivably be part of a project financed by the community for the benefit of the community. This needs to be investigated in Focus Groups in case a site were to become available.

Ground source heat pumps. Highly efficient in the right place. Also worth looking at in Focus Groups

As you can see there was only limited support for the Anaerobic Digesters and Biomass Plants - even less for wind turbines!

Issues with utility services

33. **(S33)** There were strong adverse comments on Internet and broadband access which is very poor locally and also on mobile telephone coverage which is also poor. There are problems with sewerage in The Close in the village and in Holmes Marsh

where storm drains also give problems. There were also a few reports of problems with gas and electricity.

Alternative sewage treatment systems

34. **(S34)** There was rather a lack of knowledge on alternative sewage treatment plants which might become important if any development takes place in Holmes Marsh or on farms in the wider parish in the future. Nevertheless 38% of respondents said that alternative sewage treatment systems should be encouraged in order not to load the existing systems any further.

Comments on how Lyonshall could maximise its green energy use. **Comments were received from 26 people.**

35. People are in favour of more use of green energy but to achieve any form of coordinated programme will be difficult. There was support for more composting in any form, from garden waste to orchard prunings and poultry manure, which might then be available for sale to gardeners. On the other hand, orchard prunings could perhaps be used for biomass. There was a request for more and better re-cycling facilities.

ROADS, BRIDLEWAYS, CYCLE ROUTES, PAVEMENTS AND FOOTPATHS

Adequacy of roads through the Civil parish

36a. **(S36a)** Over 45% of respondents thought that the roads through the Civil Parish would not be adequate for the traffic they will have to carry over the next 20-30 years.

36b. **(S36b)** Over 60% of respondents thought that the roads through the Civil Parish are not as safe as they should be.

What improvements are needed?

37. **84 comments were received on this subject.** Many felt there was too much speeding and that the traffic should be made to slow down by better speed limit enforcement. There were many comments saying that the A480 through the village needs more pavement space for pedestrians but there were no suggestions as to how this might be achieved. A pavement is also needed between the Holmes Marsh turning and the village centre. The Royal George corner is a problem, particularly for larger traffic. A mirror might help, but the re-routing of some of the larger continental and other lorries could be considered. There are too many potholes in most of the roads in the Civil Parish. A few people asked for a footpath between the Memorial Hall and the Church.

How important is being on a bus route?

38. **(S38)** 83% of respondents said that being on a bus route is very important and 15% considered it moderately important.

Does Lyonshall need a local bicycle route?

39. (S39) 47% of respondents felt that a local bicycle route was not needed and 28% felt that one was. This is another facility which would probably be hard to achieve in or around Lyonshall.

Are pavements, footpaths, bridlepaths and public rights of way adequate and/or sufficiently well maintained?

40. (S40) 45% said Yes and 37% said no. There were 57 comments on these matters most of which said that the footpaths and bridleways were not, on the whole, very well maintained.

WHAT OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN LYONSHALL?

39 respondents sent in comments on this question, many on separate sheets. Some of the main points were:

Consider doing away with the Village Development Boundary

The Memorial Hall, together with its parking, should be extended so that it could be used for additional purposes

The ownership and development of the Royal George needs sorting as a priority

Lyonshall is a rural village and too many new houses could spoil it

There needs to be housing and jobs for young people together with the necessary public transport if they need to work elsewhere.

Provision of facilities for young people is important despite the low numbers of young people in the village

Make the Castle Weir ruin more accessible and better marked for visitors.

We should provide better facilities for youth and then first homes for them when they are older and get married

There are definite worries about having too much development in the village - its attraction is that it is a rural village and should remain so.

BREADOWN OF RESPONDENTS

1. (S Gender) Gender of respondents - female 53% - male 47%
2. (S Age Groups) Main age groups are between 46 years and 90
3. (S Time spent in CP) Most have lived here from 10 to 30 years
4. (S Lived elsewhere?) 93% of the respondents have also lived elsewhere
5. (S Are you working etc) 49% of respondents are retired or semi retired and of the others, between 21% and 28% are in work
6. All the respondents to the Questionnaire live within the Civil Parish

7. **(S Where do you work?)** 38% don't work. 31% work in the Civil Parish. 24% work within 20 miles of Lyonshall and 6% work outside Herefordshire
8. Only 20% of respondents' households contained at least one under 18 year old
9. Most under 18 year olds were between the ages of 6 and 17

CONCLUSION

My own conclusion is that this has been a very useful exercise. In the past, virtually all development in Lyonshall has had to take place within the Village Development Boundary and I feel the respondents had some difficulty in thinking of possible development outside this box, which would be allowed if they were to vote to do away with the Development Boundary. In the next questionnaire we may well seek peoples' views on the possibility of allowing single dwellings to be built in suitable, less visible locations in the wider parish, either on farms or anywhere else. This could help by allowing new homes for those who need to be near bus routes, such as young newly marrieds and the elderly, to be in the village and would enable those with their own transport who would like to live in the wider parish, to do so if they wish. The advantage might be that the village itself could remain relatively unchanged by added development for longer.

WHAT COMES NEXT

Focus Groups

We have sent out a leaflet with a list of dates and subjects for Focus Groups. More will take place during March as the need arises. After this we should be in a good position to write and send out the Second, much more simple, Questionnaire!

Focus groups will aim to identify what further questions we need to include in the Second Questionnaire. This is so that we can investigate in more depth the main points that have been raised in the First Questionnaire, thus establishing more exactly what those who live in the Civil Parish want the Neighbourhood Development Plan to contain.

An example of work for a Focus Group could be the need for a village shop. If we are likely to find that nobody is prepared to risk their livelihood on opening a village shop, what other options are there. For instance, would there be enough people with commercial and accounting experience to form a volunteer Board for a Community Shop? How many others might be prepared to volunteer their time to serve in the shop unpaid? Where could the shop be?

Herefordshire Council tells us that we might need to build an average of 2 houses a year as part of their Strategic Plan. Another question might therefore ask whether people might have a site, which could possibly be offered for sale, on which a house could be built. This would enable a land bank to be established, which would then assist the Parish Council to plan exactly where and when development should take place as scheduled in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Those leading the Focus groups are:

7.30 pm Monday 4th February - Housing - Peter Broadbent with Ron Addis

7.30 pm Wednesday 6th February - Farming - Kinsey Hern with John Parker

6.00 pm Monday 11th February - Youth Provision - Kate Lomax

7.30 pm Wednesday 13th February - Roads, Bridleways, Cycle routes Pavements and footpaths - Isobel Hutton

7.30 pm Monday 18th February - Business and Tourism - Richard Oliver

Do come!

The Neighbourhood Development Plan

There is a point I would like to clarify. It is intended that the Neighbourhood Development Plan will be a short, concise document setting out what the residents of the Civil Parish want in terms of those items which are covered by Planning and Development laws and procedures.

Some of you may know that a number of villages have produced Parish Plans. These have no force of law behind them as does a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Parish Plans have tended to contain all a parish's requirements that do not involve Planning and Development. The Questionnaires have already, and will identify, lots of other parish requirements, needs and wishes for the future. These 'Parish Plan' items will be comprehensively recorded and described separately in the Annexes to the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish Council, voluntary groups and even individuals, to action as and when the time is right and the money available.

Please:

Help us to advertise how important this Neighbourhood Plan is for Lyonshall

Encourage your local friends who are not here this evening, to come to Focus Group meetings so they can have their say.

Don't let people tell you that the whole project is useless and a waste of money and time. It really is a vital opportunity for us to shape the future development of this village and to provide the other facilities and amenities that a vibrant village wants and needs.

FINALLY

The Analysis of the First Questionnaire give a very good indication of what the residents of the Civil Parish want in the way of Planning and Development in the next 20 years or so. 145 completed Questionnaires was a very good representative return. What I have talked to you about this evening will definitely be refined, but probably not changed significantly by the answers to the Second Questionnaire. The Steering Group members are very pleased with the number and content of the answers we have received but, for our own pride, we are all keen that a lot more people should send in their input to the Second Questionnaire. This will then enable the Neighbourhood Plan and its Parish Plan Annex to be as representative of the views of as many people as we can possibly achieve. Do help us to achieve this

NOW QUESTIONS

First of all - one from me. I would very much like to know how many of you now feel that the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan is a worthwhile project for Lyonshall? If you do, please hold up a hand.

Questions & Comments from Meeting 14/01/13

1. PB's question of "Do you feel the production of the Lyonshall NDP is worthwhile?" Carried nem con (i.e. no-one against, I believe there was one abstention).
2. Congratulations on the work being done.
3. There is nothing about polytunnels in the area although some proposals may be coming through. PB reply that we will find out more about this.
4. Encouraged by the result that large-scale development did not receive support. Lyonshall is a special, unspoiled parish and this should be retained.
5. Is there likely to be a largish eco-town? (Roger Phillips) No but higher energy standards will be expected for all buildings.
6. Is there a minimum response rate for the consultations? No but we need to spread the word and make it as high as possible.
7. Is it realistic to use the Herefordshire Core Strategy draft in July as a working document? (RP) Yes, it would be sensible for the two documents, Herefordshire & Lyonshall to be developed in tandem.

Roger Phillips, Herefordshire Councillor

1. Those parishes which have a NDP in place will be entitled to 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy which may be in the region of £5,000 per dwelling. If the parish were to receive such sums then there should be some proposals for parish infrastructure projects.
2. There will be three documents which form planning policy and which should be sympathetic to each other:
 - National
 - Herefordshire LDF/Core Strategy
 - Parish NDP

Questions & Comments from Meeting 21/01/13

1. It would be useful to compare the census profile of the Lyonshall electorate with the response rate of the questionnaire so that underrepresented groups can be targeted.
2. The process should be kept flexible as there is likely to be a need to add extra questions/items.