

Occold Parish Council

The Beeches, The Street, Occold, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7PW
Tel 01379 678360 Email: parishcouncil@occold.com

08 July 2017

Dear Occold Resident

You may remember that the Parish Council recently requested your help in assessing the housing need in Occold by asking you to complete a short survey. Thank you to all those that took the time to respond

The survey was carried out in order to help inform the Parish Council of residents' views on the housing situation in the parish. Planning decisions on individual applications are made by the District Council on the basis of the principles set out in the Local Plan. In Babergh and Mid Suffolk a consultation process is about to get underway for developing a new Local Plan that is expected to come into force in 2019 and will govern planning decisions in the district until 2036. The Parish Council will be asked to give its views on the draft document in the coming months and the results of the survey that has been carried out will ensure that when it does so the views given reflect those of our residents

Councillors are aware that some residents have been concerned about the possibility of a new development on Church Street; there have even been suggestions that it is a "done deal". It is correct that the landowner approached the Parish Council earlier in the year to see what type of housing, if any, the village would like to see built in the future. However, councillors did not feel able to answer that question without canvassing the opinion of the village. Equally, they did not want the Housing Needs Survey to be focussed solely on one potential development; for this reason it was not specifically mentioned in the survey or covering letter

At the time of writing there is no planning application on file with the District Council for a development on Church Street. If and when such an application is filed the Parish Council will be notified and asked to give its views. The application will be on the Agenda and will be discussed at its next meeting. As with all Parish Council meetings this meeting will be open to the public and residents are welcome to come along and give their views at that time

A summary of the main findings of the Housing Needs Survey is given overleaf for your information. The full results can be obtained from the Clerk or via the link on the village website occold.onesuffolk.net

Yours sincerely

Mrs S J Hubner
Clerk to Occold Parish Council

Housing Needs Survey – May 2017

114 completed surveys were received, a return rate of just over 50%

Of the 114 surveys returned 64.48% of households have lived in Occold for more than 10 years.

33.33% of those completed were by people living in 4-bedroomed detached houses

94.39% currently had bedrooms matching their needs

95.33% were permanent residences

98.13% was their first (only) residence

32.93% of respondents were in the age group - 60-74 years

63.27% of homes were owned outright

There were 9 people in the age bracket 25-44 years living at home because they could not find or afford their own accommodation and

7 people had moved out of the village because of the same reasons

66.02% of respondents were in favour of new homes being built and of those,

35.29% wanted any new homes to have no more than 2-3 bedrooms

In the age bracket 16-24 years, 1 person would be moving out in the next 12 months, 3 people in the next 1-2 years and 10 people in the next 3-5 years

28.99% of those moving would prefer to live in Occold.

39.58% of the people would be moving to set up their own homes

17.86% of those people would want to purchase their own flat/maisonette

34.70% of those people would want 2 bedrooms

44.83% of those people would consider renting a property

57.14% of those people would NOT consider shared ownership

34.38% of those people would either prefer to purchase only or, rent from a private landlord

91.49% of respondents do not have other family wishing/or able to afford, to live in the parish