

## **A summary of public comments made at the June 2013 consultation events**

### **Summary**

*This is a summary. There is a full list of comments below*

### **Sustainable Energy**

solar farms  
solar panels on buildings  
water power  
wind power  
house insulation schemes  
Time-control street lights

### **Flood amelioration**

flood prevention generally  
Change farm practice to minimise runoff  
self-help drain cleaning equipment  
Dredge Harbourne at Bow Road  
improve drainage of stream at Moreleigh Rd

### **Conservation and housing**

adjust conservation area  
survey and protect historic relics  
Tree preservation orders  
Harbertonford derelict mill → housing  
Placing of new houses  
small scale housing development  
not large scale housing development  
sustainable housing  
re-use empty houses  
House design to favour wildlife  
Access to new houses stresses our narrow lanes

### **Social Amenities**

Harbertonford - improve pub, community cafe  
Service barter scheme (paint a window # service a car)  
Harbertonford - better use of playing field - village hall area  
Harberton playing field - landscape  
skateboarding  
tennis court  
cricket pitch facilities  
Noise from trials bikes courses  
Dogshit bins  
improve discipline at bottle bank, rubbish in river  
Bottle bank - Harberton  
Ensure survival of shop, post office, garage  
Harberton - shop in pub  
Market place (Harbertonford)  
pedestrianise church square in Harberton  
Use the churches for more purposes  
Re-use telephone boxes, as book exchange &c  
Broadband speed improvement

**Natural amenities**

Landscape at Harberton ford area  
Open access to Palmer's dam flood area  
Beaver reserve on flood plain  
Public footpaths  
Allotments, orchards  
tree planting in field corners  
care for the landscape generally

**Transport**

cycle paths -harberton-h'ford - totnes  
e-cycle pool  
car sharing  
car parking  
electric car charging  
public transport - incl late night buses  
No HGV signs for Old Road, Harbertonford  
Speed restrictions around school  
Bus stops and shelters - Harbertonford, Langridge Cross  
re-design main road through Harbertonford

**Social care**

Work experience for the young Exercise for the old  
Care for the ill and disabled

**Other topics**

Reduce radiation from mobile phones and wifi

## **The June 2013 public consultation on the neighbourhood plan Full Comments**

Here are all the opinions expressed at the public events in Harbertonford village hall, then in Harberton parish hall. Only names have been removed. Notes placed at Harbertonford may refer to Harberton and vice versa. It's sometimes difficult to tell. This document is read only, because it records a historic event.

A response to this public event will be posted by the subcommittee after the many proposals have been sorted and discussed. Many of the suggestions can be implemented without a neighbourhood plan, others will be difficult to realise within a neighbourhood plan.

### **Harbertonford**

17 people registered attendance

#### **Energy**

- Solar farms on rooftops not fields! Any farm bldg or house gets a bonus from energy co's
- Encourage more use of public transport - decrease car use. Also encourage reduction in energy usage generally. More thoughtful use of electricity - manpower whenever possible (ie dishwasher v. washing up)
- ?????? Seen as a caring asset based on the Danish model of local community ownership.
- Look more seriously at harnessing local water power for energy.
- Wind power is the most cost effective source of renewable energy.
- 15% national target 348,000MWh is target for renewables in the South Hams\* - how can we generate the energy we need?
- No wind farms in area. Do not misuse neighbourhood plan information.
- Suggest explore hydro-electric scheme at dam.
- An energy workshop for residents would be a good idea - to understand renewable options.
- "Energy" not an issue for the parish - except no more turbine plans! (Onshore wind a non-starter for mass power).
- I think using wind turbines to generate energy is a good idea. They are quite beautiful - more so than pylons, signage, & so forth.
- No wind turbines. They are not windmills!
- Not acceptable to "just say no to wind" without evidence, facts & comparing MWh to other technologies/output.
- Harness dam & river for producing power - funds to return to parish council. EA have said they would be prepared to look at proposals.
- Absolutely disgusted with behaviour of anti wind turbine lobby & ?????? All debate & education of pros & cons - this scheme should definitely go ahead - funds come to villages.
- Everyone use 15% fuel per day.
- Mix of renewable energy solutions is important - every community must do its share.
- Pressure on government to get on with current generation of nuclear power station rebuilds + develop Thorium nuclear rapidly.
- A long term scheme for insulation of buildings w/o ruining their appearance. No more wind turbine proposals.
- Develop water power - river/dam unused resource.

#### **Other**

- Scheme to reduce mobile emissions & Wi-Fi in village. 3 masts must be ?????? High level of signal - health hazard.

- Most dog owners are very respectful of roads & cleaning up after- also suitable park???? Required. Those not obeying should be chased as should unruly kids too.
- Keep an eye on the levels of silting entering the river from the tributary stream that originates above Daynes Farm Harberton.
- Please could dog owners keep their dogs on the lead within the village. A dog waste bin in Woodlands Rd. ?By the wall on left before old factory? Someone else added:- Good idea!
- Regular reviews of the flood schemes - and upgrades over time as funds permit.
- Skateboarding is a noisy & dangerous nuisance - especially after midnight. Morleigh Road ban (enforcement?) + youth curfew after midnight - permanent!)
- Get rid of cars and let children skate board & have fun.
- The ban on skate boarding in Morleigh Rd has worked! Glory be.
- Not when they wake you up at 4.00 am !!
- Rubbish! Let kids have fun!

### Housing

- Main???? Harbertonford conservation area.
- Knock down the derelict mill & build flats.
- Restore the old mill and make flats or good cheap housing.
- Restore the woollen mill to provide housing in the village. Prevent the building of 50 homes in Old Road which will increase flood risks downstream.
- Housing should not climb the hills surrounding the village as it has been allowed to do in Torquay. Don't allow Morleigh road housing to climb higher.
- Maximise rather than limit the sites under house eaves where house martins & swallows roost. Don't seal every chimney pot against jackdaws.
- Acquire 'old mill' site & convert/demolish for predominately affordable (genuinely affordable)
- Mill. Redevelop site - (ie restore, adapt, rebuild) to provide small business/studio facilities - with community café etc or carefully designed new housing.
- Sustainable housing ????? On any new developments. No energy & ?????
- Appropriate infill & small developments. Serious concern re proposed large build on steep bank behind garage.
- Width of lanes to be considered with new developments.
- Mass (20+) housing unnecessary - nowhere to site it w/out harm to environment.

### Leisure

- A decent village pub - community café. - Maltsters Arms & flat a disgrace & very lacking in facilities - better combined - Heavitree (Owners) need chasing to bring up to standard.
- Football Club/VH area could be better utilized as community/sports area for whole village - also additional routine parking if organised properly.
- Have thoughts about more usage of V. Hall space - = choir, = dance classes, = talks, = film club
- Monitor the unlovely noise of the banger racing which takes place post harvest on the fields above Veal's Farm at Keys Englebourne.
- Community Centre in the Maltster's Arms & flat next to P.O.
- Would like a multi sports area (ie tennis, basketball, area) - potential site on car park area by football field? Could serve as car park when needed.
- End of football field could be used much more - either sports or parking.

### Natural Environment

- Something needs to be done about the culvert in Morleigh Road which, when blocked, means water pours into the road + gardens - if it could "flood" further upstream in land without houses - would be better surely?

- Survey of historic relics in Parish.
- Conservation area to be extended down Woodcourt Rd.
- Identify the villagers dropping garden waste and cutting into river & the lazy drinkers who leave cartons full of old bottles at the bottle bank expecting someone else to insert them in the relevant holes.
- Press for a tree preservation order on the holly arch at Luscombe Cross.
- Dredge & clean out Memorial Garden at Harberton's ford area.
- Dredge the river to prevent further flooding downstream on Bow Rd.
- Get open use to Palmers Field open dam flooding area as nature reserve & walking as no other areas in village. EA is restriction due to Ho?????

### **Traffic**

- Get 'No HGV' signs for Old Road at both ends - Post Office and Main Road.
- Car sharing scheme.
- The whole area around the school should have restricted speed around school collection time.
- Vehicles with sirens should not speed through village crossing in blind spot.
- Bus Stop to Kingsbridge - Needs small seat/rain shelter on lines of other but smaller. Plenty of space available.
- Car parking more needed - I can't imagine where, however.
- Try to contact the Sat Nav people to take off the 'Short Cut' sign in H.F.
- Parking is always needed. PLEASE remember the Vicar needs to park in the church car park on a Sunday morning.
- Mini roundabout @ Brocade junction might slow stuff down.
- By Zion chapel Priority sign system to prevent large vehicles getting jammed.
- Sustainable transport re maintaining public transport + car. Shame on village web site.
- More control/warning to traffic especially from Kingsbridge. Lg HGV's etc ignore speed & village people!!
- Why not convert Colin Finch's plot on the A381 into a pay & display car park? (He could make a mint!) over time for little input.
- More parking flexibility at the School car park.
- Lanes used as rat runs speed conbl ie Morleigh Rd.
- Traffic calming desirable, though how to achieve this on a 'A' road ....?
- Pelican crossing 20mph speed limit road humps (like on the Berry Pomery Road) -
- Children crossing at the Zebra to go to school can not be seen by traffic coming fast round the corner (from Kingsbridge side) & whizz over the zebra - even while I have been crossing!!
- Restrict all HGV's through the village. Add a width restriction sign @ each end of Old Road for big lorries
- Look hard at parking facilities - as essential with poor transport systems.

### **Society Services**

- High speed broadband community project - like the Lancaster village did - volunteer help/diggers/etc.
- High speed broadband community project as in other places.
- High speed broadband otherwise reduction in fees. BT far too entrenched.
- Electricity cuts more frequent than should be.
- Liaise with bus companies for 1 or 2 late night buses in & out of village.

### **Community Facilities**

- Community open space for all, including dogs!! Eg flood plain behind dam.

- Village must not lose - shop, post office, garage, Bus services etc all essential to village. No to garage going.
- Community right to buy on pub & shop.
- Develop V.Hall/football area to better community area including parking
- I think the PUB & adjacent flat could be refurbished into a great café & community centre that's used a lot! Now's the opportunity.
- Location for vegetable swap/sale and local grown produce.
- Village Hall needs higher ceiling - for standard badminton court!
- Can we think about taking over the village shop as a community project - several villages seem to be doing this successfully.

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## Harberton

22 people registered attendance

### Leisure and Sport

- More public footpaths
- Especially routes that make a circular walk not just random sections
- Safer cycle paths from Harberton to Totnes
- Improved cycle routes to Totnes and Harbertonford
- Tennis court
- Cycle routes
- Promote new facilities at the cricket pitch
- Off-road safe cycle route between Harberton and Harbertonford
- Cycle paths, Harberton-Harbertonford, Harberton-Totnes

### Community Facilities

- Pedestrianise the square outside the pub. Regenerate this whole area with decent paving and landscaping. Give pub extra space for outside seating to encourage business (2 supporting comments)
- The church should be a resource for the whole community – use the building more
- We must keep the pub as a community facility. Community buy out? Or help the owners to improve facilities
- Bottle bank
- Public transport is a real problem! I'm not sure buses answer needs – how about a community car service where people share their journeys?
- Create a community area for fruit and nut trees and allotments
- How about setting up a Time Bank where we give time for things we can do, eg wait in for a parcel delivery, show you how to use your commuter, cut your hedge, type a formal letter etc
- Proper broadband – what we have is pathetic and restricting
- To direct all buses from Kingsbridge Road to call at village – this would easily increase bus frequency
- Provide a village car for community use! I will offer mine! Ashburton have such a car share scheme
- Cycle route to Totnes and Harbertonford. (cycle priority on the roads similar to green route on Channel Islands)
- More community use of the Church
- Improve bus transport to feed into train timetable
- Is the telephone box in Harberton still in use? Was it offered for community use by BT? At Thurlestone, they use the phone box as a book store – drop a book in and take a book out free. Lovely idea.

- Maybe a community run minishop? In the pub?
- Electric bicycle pool

### **Natural Environment**

- Look at management of playing fields and consider tree /bush planting and meadow areas to encourage play and wildlife and reduce mowing.
- Council or community run allotments needed with water
- Allotments
- More parking
- Please keep the playing field as a large open space for youngsters to use – no more planting
- No by-pass. Preserve the countryside and wildlife
- Community orchard, bee hives
- No bypass. It would finish off the shop (and garage) and wreck the landscape
- No wind turbines in areas of bat habitat
- Provide more off road parking – cars are complete blight to natural environment. What about a car share scheme?
- No wind turbines of any size in Harberton and Harbertonford as too damaging to wildlife especially bats
- Improve the area /square outside the pub
- No wind turbines as the visual impact on the environment would be negatively affected. Hazard to bats.
- Identify unused corners of farmers fields and plant with trees to help wildlife (2 supporting ticks)

### **Society Services**

- Create a system to help young people get work experience
- An exercise group aimed at older people / those with illness in the community
- Community group to support residents with chronic illness / disabilities

### **Energy**

- 129 opposed to wind turbines in Harberton, 18 supported
- No more large solar parks. Stop wind turbines
- Small scale renewable energy ie turbines smaller than 50 metres to blade tip
- So what are we going to do about climate change ie the very late spring, flooding in the village. Doing nothing is not an option
- Solar. Small scale solar on roofs, eg village halls, industrial units, agricultural units, domestic homes, small arrays
- No wind turbines over 25 metres
- We now have enough solar farms in the parish, so no more. Wind turbines should not automatically be accepted at planning. The area will be blighted by wind turbines
- If we are to be a resilient community, can we please think about the big picture –the future? We need to give a little to have a future for our children – so wind turbines
- Street lights. By 2014, they have to absolutely and completely be turned off at 12 pm. This issue has trailed through 2012 and 2013, with excuse after excuse when I phone Devon Highways. No delay is permissible.
- Street lights. Best if they were turned off, however from midnight would be a compromise.
- Dim street lights
- Turn off street lights after midnight. Replace current bulbs with LED bulbs
- No wind turbines or more large scale solar farms. Use the water resources.
- No wind turbines within 1.5 kilometres of homes

- No more solar farms within the Parish
- Solar panels on all new buildings / dwellings
- Solar panels on every appropriate roof!. Severely dim and/or turn off street lights at night, and/or fix lights to turn on by motion
- More assistance to people to be able to have solar panels on their roofs
- Get real –take a reality check and encourage more sustainable energy even if its giant turbines
- No more solar farms – how are they going to keep the land tidy underneath
- I fully support renewable energy. The most effective way to hit our targets for renewable energy production is big wind, not solar/tide etc. This is now government policy. For our childrens sake we should support it.
- Use stream to generate electricity?
- Renewable energy. How do we as a Parish meet the targets? Where are the wind turbines going to be located? More PV panels on houses and commercial buildings even the church maybe.
- No wind turbines within 1.5 kilometres of homes. No more solar farms please. Individual solar panels – yes please
- No wind turbines as rare bat populations damaged by even micro turbines
- Harberton is not a suitable site for large scale wind turbines. The landscape will be visually blighted. Bat populations affected. Encourage with subsidies people to have PV panels on their houses and insulate their homes
- How are we to generate the power we consume and meet the 15% renewables target? If we are to outlaw large wind turbines ( probably the most effective use of space and money), what short term alternatives will we agree to support?
- Use overgrown hedges and unfarmed land for biomass energy production
- No more acres and acres of solar panels but make it easier, more affordable to put on domestic roves
- Turn off all street lights 11 pm to 6 am and save energy
- Sea / wave powered energy. No massive wind turbines; more small domestic turbines
- More solar panels on school, farmers barns and other buildings – not on fields
- We'll never make it in the short term without large wind turbines

#### **Other**

- Move field gates away from the lowest part of crop fields to prevent the worst of runoff onto lanes, dwellings
- Flood prevention at the bottom of village, ie Church Barn, Lark Rise, Ford Farm
- Build a sump at Langridge Cross to contain run-off from the main road and the lane above the Cross
- Ensure the pub never disappears. Add a shop/PO. If it has to be sold, allow villagers to purchase and run it
- Local farmers to show consideration for the public and reduce dumping of soil and slurry on roads
- Non-ploughed strips at the bottom of crop fields to reduce run-off
- Flood prevention. Don't plough fields down the fall line . Reduce run0off by ploughing across the slope where possible
- Pot holes and road surfaces need to be dealt with promptly. Our lanes are deteriorating
- Farmers to ensure deep ruts and gateways are not allowed to create "rivers" flowing down road into the village and silting up drains and causing preventable flooding
- Improve the square outside the Church House. Possibly limit the amount of parking and introduce flower beds etc. Maybe stop traffic coming up and down to the pub. Have turning area for deliveries



- Empty houses within the village need to be managed and made habitable. This would help to improve their visual impact and help to provide much needed housing. The fabric of the properties would also be improved for the future
- Faster broad to improve internet access ( Agree)
- Properties left unoccupied and uncared for to be made to sell or rent. Possible use as a village shop etc
- Parish Council to purchase a “drain spoon” with which local people can unblock the blocked up drains and buddle holes
- Access fibre optic broad band cable that runs through Harberton for all residents for faster internet
- Don't grow winter crops on land which drains straight onto the lanes

### **Traffic**

- Plan for electric car points
- Get cars off lanes – provide more off road parking. Couldn't get a fire engine / ambulance up our lane
- Better safe cycle path network
- Bus stops at Langridge Cross please. Both sides of the road please
- SLOW signs coming into Harberton on west side (bus stop side), detailing signs for children, animals cats and dogs, adults
- Transport – instead of making yet more car parking spaces, what about a car pool / car club scheme for Harberton
- Sleeping policemen to slow traffic speeds down through the centre of village (agree)

### **Housing**

- Starter homes in contemporary design using local materials are welcome
- I support the Land Trust plans and would like to see us build more homes too – play our part and share what we have
- Self build code 5 buildings not just for affordable housing but also for we oldies needing a cheap sustainable retirement
- How can empty houses be made available for people in housing need. The house opposite the Church House seriously damages the enjoyment of that area. The pavement and railings etc are a complete mess
- Harberton to become a place of excellence for sustainable build starter homes
- Any new property built must be to very highest insulation , grey water use solar roof panels etc
- There's probably a demand for smaller sized homes for the young, single and old people in Harberton. I would say modern, energy efficient with garden and double garage. – How would you prevent them being sold as second homes though ??? problem!
- Affordable starter homes needed
- Villages need to be vibrant and have a mix of ages. Hence small houses – even on green field sites – should be allowed. Harberton should not fossilise
- Bring long term empty properties in the centre of the village back into use as affordable rented accommodation
- All new builds should meet sustainable code 5. Support self-build projects.

### **Longer essays**

- I am most concerned about the large-scale desecration of the BEAUTIFUL countryside surrounding Harberton. This has been a quintessential picturesque Devon scene, admired by those of us who have chosen to live here, and also by those who came as visitors ( and indeed help the local economy). The current Totnes guide actually tells tourists to go and

admire the stunning South Hams villages, and explore the lanes and catch glimpses of the picture postcard fields and meadows! This is now rapidly changing - within a couple of miles of Harberton we now have Europe's largest solar park, %green% [This is not true. We don't even have England's largest solar farm. I don't want this website to host pseudo-facts which haven't been checked. Editor] %black% which stretches across the horizon – what was once a rural idyll has been ruined! There seems to be no joined up thinking to the planning – any farmer can choose to rent out his fields to a developer (the cash return is obviously very attractive!) and no-one seems to be controlling the overall effect. Why not put these industrial sites (which they are) next to major trunk roads? Why choose the prettiest sites and destroy them (for the next 25 years) . There needs to be CONTROL – locally and nationally! Why not make representations on our behalf? And what happens to agriculture – if fields are taken over by solar farms, who is going to grow the food? Are we going to import it? How green is that?