**KINGTON AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**KINGTON RURAL AND LOWER HARPTON QUESTIONNAIRE**

**RESPONSES TO ‘OPEN’ QUESTIONS**

**Q 2** **What do you particularly like about the area you live in?**

Nearly everyone wrote something.
The most frequent comments were:

*The countryside and wild life*, *the quietness*.

A fairly frequent comment was *isolation and being left alone*
with a similar number saying: *Friendliness and community spirit*.

A number commented that *Kington is a good, useful small town*

**Q 3 What could be done to improve your area?**

Answered by nearly everyone with a wide variety of suggestions.

Most frequent: *remove litter, keep the roads repaired, better public transport*, and, *nothing.*

Several related to the Surgery (Kington Medical Centre): *it’s in the wrong place, need pavement to it,
reduce speed limit on access road, need NHS dentist, want appointments when needed.*

Several wanted *speed reduction in the town and on local roads, reduce lorries in town,
more car parking space in town, pedestrianize the High Street.*

Several related to local business: *better broadband, better range of shops, support small businesses, encourage occupancy of vacant shops, build executive houses to attract business and prosperous people.*

**Q 7 Other priorities for new housing**

Several responses effectively replicated those to 4 options offered in main body of question.
Of the others…

*Need bungalows for rent and sale for elderly (2)*

*Housing that will attract people with money to invest locally/set up business/ provide employment/*

*work from home (4)*

**Q 8 (types of housing additional to options in main body of question)**

Small number of suggestions, among which:

*Water efficient, use renewable energy*

*Beautiful, imaginative, sympathetic designs (not concrete boxes) (3)*

*Use local builders (2)*

*New developments need amenities (1*)

**Q 12 What are the main obstacles to working from home in your area?**

30 people stated: improved and reliable internet/broadband and mobile phone connections

Other: important to retain services e.g. post office

*Poor state of roads*

*Few jobs available*

*Poor* *public transport links*

**Q 15 Do you feel it is important that small family farms stay a feature of our community?**

Almost everybody answered **‘YES’** and offered explanations:

*They make this countryside what it is (13),
they are rooted in local community, interested in local environment, hedges, wildlife etc.,
inherit wisdom and pass it on, teach young people to care for the environment, supply local shops,
employ more people per acre, participate in local events. They are needed for a balanced economy.*

*Whereas: big farmers ruin the countryside create prairie fields, are concerned only with profit,
use contractors ‘from off’, no jobs for locals, lose contact with food, unbalance the local economy.*

*Concern was expressed by several that as people retire, farms get less fully used
and barns are converted to houses; once lost the small farm cannot be retrieved.*

**Q 16 What forms of diversification should be allowed? (additional to 6 options in main body of question**)

A small number of suggestions:

*Renewable energy projects that don’t require use of good land (2)*

*Small rural enterprises eg coppicing, wood turning, pottery*

*No more chicken farms*

*Nothing that has adverse impact on landscape or wildlife*

**Q 17 How could redundant farm buildings best be used? (additional to 4 optioms on main body of question**)

A small number of suggestions:

*Leave them undeveloped for wildlife e.g. owls, bats, etc (4)*

*Use for teaching/workshops, recreational activities*

**Q 18 Do you have any ideas about how we could improve our local economy?**

A lot of suggestions.

*Reduce rents and business rates (5)*

*Shops: Advertise local food in shops (3), more large supermarkets, more independent shops, Increase hrs of opening, competitive prices, get people to shop in Kington, ‘shop local scheme’*

*Increase tourism (4) Promote Kington for walking(2) Signpost walks(2)*

*More free parking (4)*

*Better medical services and a dentist (2)*

*Pedestrianise or use traffic calming in High Street (4) Kington High Street: paint it (2), pedestrianize it/traffic calming (4)*

*Advertise small independent businesses (2), volunteers to help start-ups, loans for start-ups*

*Improve Hergest camp substantially (2)*

*Encourage and support Friday markets in Kington (2) Build on success of Christmas Food Fair*

*Better broadband and internet(2)*

*Craft centre for display, demonstrations and workshops (2)*

*Give town an identity (cf Hay on Wye)*

**Q 20 What could brownfield sites be used for? (additional to 6 options in main body of question)**

Small number of suggestions

*Small rural craft businesses*

*Feature Hergest Camp history on site*

*Garden centre*

*Leisure activities e.g. paint balling, BMX track, casino complex*

*Nature reserve, re-wilding project*

**Q 21 Renewable energy projects?**

Likely that people repeated their choices from main part of question

*Wood coppice (11)*

*Biomass (5)*

*Hydro (4)*

Q 23 Any other tourist facilities in the area?

*Better maintained footpaths and signage (2)*

*Walking centre (2) Cycling: bike ride routes, change facilities, cycle paths (4)*

*Re-wild the countryside and increase areas of unexploited land (2)*

*Increase TIC hours*

*Ban caravans*

*More 4x4 areas*

*Flicks in the sticks*

**Q 28 What else could Kingswood Hall be used for?**

Several robust answers that disputed the premise of under-use! Others gave a long list of suggestions

*Need for local bus to access (3)*

*Flicks in the Sticks (4) monthly films (2)*

*Classes (4) children’s classes (2)*

*Youth clubs (2)*

*Play group Child Care*

*Music venue, Exhibitions, plant fairs, book club, lap dancing, pop-up café in summer, Christmas fair, Community shop/pub*

**Q 29 Are there special areas, places that need special protection or that you think important?**

*Most people wrote an answer*

*The whole area (2) Hills surrounding Kington (2)*

*Herrock Hill (2)*

*Hergest Ridge and Ridgebourne Lane (16)*

*Lane from Lower Hergest too Hergest Ridge (2)*

*Hergest Court and surroundings (2) Motte and Baile @ Lower Hergest (2)*

*Bradnor Hill and Barton Lane (10) Golf Course*

*The River (5) The Rec (2)*

*Tramway Pool*

*Birches farm*

*Rushock Hill*

*All hedgerows and veteran trees (4)*

**Q 30 Which facilities in Kington do you use? What others would you like to have?**

18 options were offered in main question re existing facilities.

Further ones listed were: Already used. No further items listed

Additional ones wanted:

*Dentist (2),*

*Ladies’ Clothes shop (2) Fabric and craft shop , More shops, Competition for Coop, Better choice of shops, Competition for petrol station/garage*

*Pedestrianise High Street, Wider pavements, 20mph in streets, Stop car parking in High St,
Improved disabled access,*

*Longer Library opening hours, Improved Market Hall, Live performance venue, Local Arts Centre,
More activities for children, Decent Public Hall, Walking facilities, Better signage, More allotments,
Nature Reserves, Agriculture Machinery outlet*

**Q 31 Where does your family do their man food shopping? (6 options in main body of question)**

Only one additional place named…Ludlow

**Q 32 Are you a member of any clubs and societies in Kington? Which**?

*Kington TIC (4), Gardening Club (3), U3A (3), MAP (2), KLEEN (2), History Soc (2), KIngton Art Society (2), Kington Community Choir (2)*

*Kington Choral Society, St Marys Church, Slimming World, Cloud Fitness, Crafty Crafters,*

 *Nature Trust, Golf Club, Volunteer at Food Bank, Community Lunch Club, Litter Picking Group, Kington Walking Festival, Walks for Life, Handbells, Fishing Club*

**Q 33 What improved public transport do you need?**

*Later buses from Hereford(7), Sunday bus to Hereford(7), Bus to Leominster(7)*

*Buses to villages especially at week-ends(2) Bus to and from Lower Hergest (2)*

*Bus along Kingswood Rd (2) Bus from Kingswood to Surgery
Bus to and from Hay
Taxis in lieu of diminished bus services
A Ring and Ride service
Trains*

**Q 40 Any further comments or ideas**?

*I love it here, I came a long way to live here and it has not disappointed me.
We want Kington Rural and Lower Harpton to remain peaceful and unspoilt; that’s what we like and what draws tourists here.
No more broilers or polytunnels (2)
Pedestrianise High Street to make shopping enjoyable and draw people here, control parking on double yellow lines more effectively, one-way traffic in High Street
Make Kington a hub
Concerned about safety on A44 for walkers on Offa’s Dyke path, need safe crossing and lower speed limit
Local lanes need to be kept up if we are to attract tourists
Need improved facilities for young people
Regular market for food and craft under one roof.
Important to keep fire, police and ambulance services*