

Three Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Response Summary – Norton in Hales

Participation across the three parishes was as follows:

Adderley 45 households (28.5%)

Moreton Say (incl Bletchley, Longford, Longslow and Moreton Wood) 44 households (27.8%)

Norton in Hales (incl betton, Brown Hills and Ridgwardine) 69 households (43.7%)

Individual responses from NIH residents:

A. About Your Household

Q8 What do the members of your household like most about living here?

Having a local pub x 2

Q9 What could be improved?

Shops, facilities, transport links, pavements all feature in quite a number of these comments.

Village shop x 5

Better flood management x 2

Bus service x 5

Pavements, footpaths and roads x 6

Better broadband

B. Housing and Development

Q17 Are there any particular sites you think suitable for new housing development within the Three Parishes?

8 bungalows being built on main road Norton in Hales

Bungalow development - Norton in Hales (site recently declined because of political reasons)

Gap between Forge House and the estate built where the red barn was [NiH]

I've always thought it would be better to re-build school next to playing fields/ sports pavilion + then school site could be sold for homes??? Possibly to do this to the Village Hall too?? [NiH]

Land adjacent to Norton Farm, N I Hales. Land is an eyesore and bungalows needed in village not high-rise houses

Land adjacent to Pear Croft in Norton in Hales

Land between Norton Barn + Pear Tree Croft. Norton in Hales Main Road

Land next to Norton Farm [NiH]

Norton Farm - complete Peartree Farm area Infill/Farm developments - for younger generations

Norton Farm old farmyard area

Q18 Are there any areas of land you think should be protected from development?

All land between Norton in Hales and Betton

All the usable farming fields [NiH]

Any green spaces in the village or surrounding the edge of the village [NiH]

In Norton in Hales the area behind the proposed new car park behind the bus shelter (the proposed new car park is fine but nothing more)

By river on Mucklestone Rd [NiH]

Cricket field area Norton in Hales

Existing greenfield land surrounding villages [NiH]

Norton in Hales has three new building sites, one of which looks like Beirut. We have got enough new housing as the lanes accessing the village are too narrow for two cars passing

Norton in Hales need s heritage or protected ring otherwise the feel will be lost

Norton in Hales village. Already large number of new homes including a site in administration Norton Sports and recreational facilities such as the cricket pitches, tennis courts and bowling clubs

The corridor between Betton and Norton in Hales. This must remain open countryside. It gives clear definition between the two settlements

The field in the heart of the village, which connects to small field where the Hinds Head are planning their car park

The open space behind the Norton in Hales bus shelter. Infill here will destroy the nature of the village further than it already has been by ill-considered especially building gated communities in open countryside. The planners need to be held accountable for this shocking judgment. Hedges and trees are suitable in open countryside not brick built gated entries.

The sports and cricket grounds as it is one of the few amenities the village has [Nih]

Q21 Do you have any other comments on housing and development?

Consider choice of builder/construction as progress has been slow due to liquidation delays

I actually live in a new build, so I feel hypocritical, but we are right on the edge [answered worried for all - NiH]. I feel the extent of recent housing development in Norton in Hales has been far greater than should ever have been allowed & would like to help make sure no other village locally suffers the same fate! The infrastructure to support so many newbuilds is being overwhelmed.

If the development has been well designed + has been well landscaped - this will enhance the village. There is plenty of surrounding countryside. I do worry about increased traffic and unsafe for walkers to leave the village. Also could be high demand on water supply/pressure to outlying houses at the end of the line! [NiH]

None of the developments in NIH have been in keeping with the village in scale, style or materials. Far too many have already been allowed - way beyond demand, so that there are now 2 sites which look derelict [NiH]

Norton in Hales is already overpopulated. the roads are too busy + no public transport links

Redevelopment of existing unused sites. V concerned about wildlife. Concern re flooding + drainage.

However, understand we need more housing but needs to be affordable [NiH]

Some inappropriate building materials not matching the village in Norton in Hales

The roads into and out of Norton in Hales are already far too busy and could be an accident waiting to happen. The village also already struggles with parking during the day when the school is open. We must maintain flood plains and not develop on these. [NiH]
We need parking around the pub & school area. Very dangerous [NiH]
Because of the lack of good roads in our Parish, I don't think transport or light industrial should be suitable [NiH]

D. Jobs and the Local Economy

Q32 Should the neighbourhood Plan identify land for business use?

By canal Victoria Warf? Market Drayton? [NiH]
Home businesses require stable, fast internet. Others = we have a range of empty or under used farm building which could become enterprise zones. [NiH]
Just outside of village [NiH]
On current brownfield sites in more rural parts or on outskirts nearer larger towns.
village sites land sites of minimal impact e.g. a local shop opposite the Hinds Head used for overflow parking for Weddings. [NiH]

Q35 Do you have any other comments on jobs and the local economy?

Living in the country has great appeal to **some** people, but it is difficult to foresee the possibility of a sustainable community. It is a nice place to go home to if you want to live in the country. Norton in Hales is fortunate to have a pub at the centre of the village and a focus for community social life. Need improved broadband to cater for increase in covid/resulting home working [NiH]
Need more local amenities [NiH]

E. Transport

Q36 How does your household travel to work?

This question was only answered by 116 respondents. Multiple answers were allowed. The low response is explained by the fact that a good proportion of participating households do not contain members who work. Overwhelmingly though, respondents travel to work by car or work from home. We do not work but need a car as there is no public transport in our village [NiH]

Q37 How much of a problem are traffic issues?

Access to Norton in Hales from Bearstone and Betton is not fit for purpose. Access via Napley from the B5415 should be the main access if widened and would be the most economic solution
Large vehicles in our narrow lanes are a problem as is the speed & volume through Betton
Main road parking is a real problem + parents who sit with engines running for 10/15 mins sometimes [NiH]
Narrow road, this is an issue at peak times e.g. school pick up [NiH]
Parking in Norton in Hales is terrible during the day. The school desperately needs a car park, children being dropped off and collected are put in danger but all the parked cars and large vehicles trying to get passed.
School parking Norton in Hales
There is a problem with volume & speed at certain times of the day as children are transported to school [NiH]

Too many large vehicles unsuited to the narrow lanes [NiH]

We could do with more passing places on roads going into the village - or widen roads [NiH]

Q38 At what locations are you regularly concerned with road safety and what is the problem?

Access roads to and from Norton in Hales village. Agricultural vehicles main problem - speed and deposit of mud

All over the village some people drive fast [NiH]

All roads from Norton to Market Drayton + to Knighton - tractors are always speeding + overloaded - People drive too fast in general

Along the main road through the village, mostly due to school parking. Also volume, size, speed of cars around this time between the village and Mkt Drayton/ Napeley [NiH]

Betton main road to Norton

Betton to Market Drayton road, speed and size of vehicles

Between Betton and Norton in Hales. Between Norton in Hales and Bearstone. It is not safe for cyclists

Currently there is an appropriate level traffic for the quality of the single-track roads [NiH]

Drayton to Norton school run and farm contractor driving way too fast as has been illustrated by tractors shedding loads in the lanes because kids were driving

Flooding, Maer lane [NiH]

Main street Norton in Hales pavements. Quite often pushchair on road. Uneven pavement

Many of the roads around Norton, problem is too many vehicles, travelling too fast on narrow lanes with poor visibility. Compounded by ever increasing size of tractors and agricultural machinery in general, the lanes were probably fine for horses and carts travelling slowly, but road infrastructure has not been updated to accommodate growth in vehicle size, speeds and number. I feel this applies across the whole of the three parishes area but not familiar with all the routes.

Market Drayton to Norton in Hales during school runs when speeding is an issue

Narrow lanes in/out and around the village frequently used by extremely oversized lorries and tractors & farm vehicles, travelling too fast [NiH]

Near the Norton primary school and along Main Road in Norton and the country roads towards Drayton. People driveway too fast and very large vehicles cause hold ups and delays.

Norton to Betton is very narrow + this is the main route into/out of the village. Bends make visibility very poor for the cyclists/motorists.

Outside Norton in Hales primary school

Outside the school & pub. always parked vehicles on the roads. Parish Council keep talking about a village car park but nothing happens [NiH]

Parking and narrow road outside Norton in Hales school. Large farm vehicles speeding through village centre

Road traffic between Norton in Hales & Betton + Norton in Hales & Beeston. These lanes were not designed for the heavy lorries that are now frequently using them

Road to Norton in Hales speeding vehicles a danger to walkers, cyclists & horse riders

Roads far too narrow for today's traffic, built in physical size & the ability to cope with volume, which is increasing exponentially [NiH]

School [NiH]

School parking in village. Potholes on main roads to and from villages [NiH]

School pick up + drop off times - people parking on the 'keep clear' to drop off, and generally parking inconsiderately causing children to have to walk in the road. The community car park being completed would help this issue [NiH]

School run in all directions & parking outside the school all day [NiH]

See above [Main road parking is a real problem + parents who sit with engines running for 10/15 mins sometimes] All of one side of Main Rd taken up throughout the day with 'school' parking making it difficult for larger (agricultural) vehicles to get thru village + locals to access their properties [NiH]

Small lanes/lorry transport - Betton/Norton

The country road from Norton in Hales to Betton

The junction of Thom Lane Betton into the main road is a problem due to the speed of the through traffic particularly at school time. Traffic calming measures are promised but not delivered [Betton]

The lanes approaching Norton in Hales and the main roads in the village. Vehicles often travel too fast both in the village and on the approaching lanes.

The local school, not enough parking [NiH]

The main road through Norton in Hales and the narrow lanes around with too much traffic

The main road through the village [NiH]

The main road through the village with the speed and volume of traffic The main routes. Narrow & cars speed & have several near misses [NiH]

The Market Drayton to Norton-in-Hales Road - this road is narrow, but traffic still travels fast and at school start and home time this problem is worse.

The road linking Betton and Norton is constantly busy, passing vehicles proves difficult and walking, riding and cycling is hazardous. The byways through Betton is dangerous

Through Betton. Speeding along the Betton to Norton Road. Also large ruts at the roadside between Betton and Market Drayton big enough to damage vehicles. Also regular road flooding in Oakley and Moss Lanes [NiH]

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Traffic traveling through village [NiH] - feel it should be less than 30mph. School traffic/parking - parent driving erratically

Travel through the village as well as up the Norton Lane.

Walking to Napley nursery with no footpath. Cycling to Market Drayton - cars & no cycle path away from the road [NiH]

Q39 Are there any issues around parking in the Three Parishes area?

In some of the previous questions some respondents have already commented on areas where they feel parking is an issue. This may depend on the Parish they reside in. Overall, 148 respondents answered this question (response rate 93.1%) with about a third thinking there is a problem, but these were mainly Norton in Hales respondents.

Fifty-two respondents left a comment, and these are shown below. **At least 39 of these are about the Norton in Hales parking situation around the school and pub**

Q42 What changes would make it easier for people in your household to get to work or would improve road safety in the area in general?

This question came in two parts, firstly whether the respondent agreed with the measure and then to give details of what and where.

Dedicated cycle route

Between Norton and Market Drayton!

Between Norton in Hales and Market Drayton - old railway line would be ideal but roads not suitable

Could make a cycle/pedestrian route off road to Market Drayton?? [NiH]

Cycling ways require investment to accommodate more people on their bikes. Difficult to imagine

how cycle ways can be introduced within the narrow lanes [NiH]

Disused railway line - Norton in Hales to Market Drayton & Woore

From Norton in Hales to Market Drayton, edge of fields, behind hedgerow

Roads from Market Drayton to Norton in Hales Bellaport Road

Route from Norton Betton to Drayton

Shopping & health reasons. Market Drayton to Norton + other routes / using old railway alongside road [NiH]

The derelict railway line from Norton to Market Drayton

Improved pavement and walkways

A pavement linking the Hard Standing to the village would be a valuable addition [Btn]

Address the uneven and poor condition pavement on Main Road (opposite side to school) [NiH]

As above [Cycling ways require investment to accommodate more people on their bikes. Difficult to imagine how cycle ways can be introduced within the narrow lanes] Narrow roads make it difficult to construct path/cycle ways without widening the roads [NiH]

For school runs as pushchair cannot go on half of the pavements as due to cars parking nr pavement having to walk in the road [NiH]

Improvement of pavements - Main road [NiH]

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It's sometimes necessary to walk in the road due to the lack of formal pedestrian footways in parts of Norton in Hales

Main Road [NiH]

Main Road [NiH]

Main Road in Norton.

Main Road Norton in Hales

Main road Norton in Hales pavements are uncomfortable

Not able to push a buggy or wheelchair on pavements [NiH]

Pavements not wide enough [NiH]

The pavements on main road are not in great condition - uneven and narrow in places (appreciate they need to be narrow in places though)

The path between Chapel Lane and Bellaport Rd should be a hard surface.

The pavements in Norton in Hales are not wide enough for a buggy in the majority of places.

To outlying areas (e.g. to the graveyard, to the Napley nursery, to encourage greener transport [NiH])

Improved bus services

A bus that is timetabled to Norton

Bus service Norton in Hales

From Norton in Hales to Market Drayton

Local bus service for Norton in Hales

Norton in Hales to Market Drayton

Norton in Hales to Market Drayton, Crewe, Nantwich

Norton to Drayton daily at least twice could also bring children to and from school reducing traffic Norton to Market Drayton.

There used to be a school minibus bringing children from outside the village- this could dramatically reduce the traffic [NiH]

Through NiH, connecting to Market Drayton + Stoke

Very limited at present to from Norton in Hales

Village too small for regular service [NiH]

We don't have a bus service [NiH]

We have no bus service [NiH]

We have no bus service currently.

Improvements to the road network incl traffic calming

Bellaport Road, Beswick Lane, Main Road [NiH]

By local school [NiH]

Designated passing places would be safer - Market Drayton to Norton in Hales

Driving upon entering the village from Market Drayton. A speed indicator device should be installed.

A pedestrian crossing should also be installed by the school

Improvement to the road to Market Drayton but not speed bumps [NiH]

Road Access [NiH]

Speed bump down forge lane. delivery drivers, milkmen and local residents zip down the narrow lane without pavement [NiH]

Speed signs at both ends of village [NiH]

The Market Drayton to Norton-In-Hales Road would benefit.

The road between Norton in Hales + M Drayton

Through Betton village

Widen roads to make it safer & allow construction of cycle/pathways [NiH]

Improved street lighting

Beswick Lane, Chapel Lane [NiH]

Beswick Lane, Norton in Hales

Increased number of lights and conversion to LED lamps [NiH]

Main Road [NiH]

More lighting in streets in Norton in Hales

Mucklestone Rd [NiH]

Some light bulbs replacing in the existing ones as soon as they fail would be good

Very poor street lighting [NiH]

Victorian lamp standards in conservation areas [NiH]

Speed indicator devices

Along Bellaport Road and Main Road [NiH]

Both ends of village [NiH]

Coming out of the village on main road towards Market Drayton [NiH]

Either end of the main road through the village [NiH]

Entering Norton in Hales on Bearstone Road/Main Road

Entering Norton in Hales village by main Road

Entering village at Main Road Norton in Hales

Entrance to Norton
In central village + incoming [NiH]
In Norton in Hales
Main Road Norton
On entry to the village [NiH]
On entry to the village from Market Drayton [NiH]
On road into village [NiH]
Upon entry to the village [NiH] from all directions

Improved road signage

Further signs and pavements will spoil the appearance yet more - would just like people to drive appropriately and buy smaller cars! [NiH]

F. Environment

Q44 Please state any other matters you consider to be important in relation to agricultural use.

Change of use of farm buildings for small businesses acceptable if extra volume of traffic could a
Chicken farms are not really agriculture but industrial buildings. These are a concern.
No chicken farm extension when not viable or justified
No more chicken farms as ammonia seeps into streams

Q45 How important are the following features in the landscape to members of your household?

Hedgerows
Dry stone walls
Trees in the landscape
Water courses
Footpaths

Respondents were then invited to state any particular aspect of the countryside or wildlife that is important to them and 41 left a comment and these are shown below:

A push to inform those responsible for hedge cutting that a three year rotation of hedge cutting gives enormous benefits to wildlife. This does not include road side which are best to cut annually for safety reasons but not until January/February when the berries have been eaten by the birds.
Diffuse pollution from septic tanks
Public footpaths should all be accessible to walkers [NiH]

Q47 Please use the following space to make any additional comments on protecting the environment.

NiH must be doing everything possible to become carbon neutral. plant trees, rewild the countryside and mitigate the effects of climate change.
Norton has at least 2 building sites that have been left in a mess - this is bad for environment

G. Countryside and green spaces

The survey explained that neighbourhood plans can designate local green spaces but that such an area must be in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves and be demonstrably special to the local community.

Q48 On the above basis, can you identify any green spaces that you would like to see designated as a local green space?

Sixty-eight respondents (48.9% of those that answered this question) said Yes (71 – 51.1% answered No) and 71 respondents left a comment, these are shown below. A number of comments are very generic like 'All fields' or 'Everywhere along...' but some specific locations also get several mentions including Fordhall's Cottage Field, the old railway line and the cricket field. We suggest the steering group get a map and shades in the suggested locations to then make an assessment if any will pass the criteria for designation.

One hundred and thirty-nine respondents answered this question (87.4% response rate).

Building has already been allowed over most of them [NiH]

Cricket field [NiH]

Field in centre of Norton with access from Forge Lane and Main Road. Currently used by Farmer to graze sheep and for silage. And has footpath skipping narrow country lane for safer country side walking. Also helps with keeping ground flooding at bay for surrounding properties. Many local people use the footpath.

Fields that surround the sports area [NiH]

Fields to the west/ n west of existing cricket/tennis and bowls made suitable for football/other ball games [NiH]

Land and green spaces in or surrounding the village [NiH]

Land immediately adjacent to disused railway line through Adderley and Norton-in-Hales parishes and land immediately adjacent to Shropshire Union Canal through Adderley parish

Norton Cricket Club and Playing Fields

Norton in Hales behind the bus stop is an open field it is the last open space in the heart of the village that gives long views

Norton in Hales cricket field. Large field on Besuncle Lane, Norton in Hales

Norton in Hales recreation ground. Patrons pool area

Norton Village Green

Parton's Pool (if it's not already) and the field behind the houses on Main Road/Forge lane (accessed by the gate opposite Hind's Head, or on foot down Forge Lane to the permitted footpath)

Parton's Pool, Norton.

Pasture between Norton in Hales and Betton

Sewage work field - along track by river. Field behind it. Potato + wheat field, beyond Partins [?] [NiH]

Sports field, village green, Partons Pool [NiH]

The area behind the proposed car park in Norton in Hales behind the bus shelter

The big field in the heart of the village, next to the proposed car park to the Hinds Head

The cricket pitches, tennis courts and bowling green

The existing Norton in Hales village green ie St Chads Close. The lane situated between Norton and Betton on the sides of the main road

The green at Church Meadow NiH

The Land between Norton in Hales and Betton. Both sides of the road provide vistas of green open countryside

The playing field, tennis court, bowls green and playground
Village cricket ground,

H. Facilities

Q53 If the opportunity arose, what new facilities would you like to see in your Parish?

Respondents were asked to list suggestions and 20 left a comment, and these are shown below:

A car park for school traffic in Norton in Hales - ideal site opposite Hinds Head

A village shop [NiH]

Cycle path [NiH]

Games room e.g. table tennis / table football etc for kids/adults - either at pub or cricket club? Large room for parties/weddings? [NiH]

Parking for public house [NiH]

Village shop/farm shop [NiH]

Q54 Are there services in your Parish that need improving?

Mains water supply only comes up Dw [?] Road - + we have to be responsible for supplying it - a distance of 1/2 mile to the house. It would be better to have mains direct to the house [NiH]

Mains gas in the village would be more cost effective [NiH]

Local drains need clearing more regularly as blockage often causes roads to be flooded [NiH]

Needs regular maintenance by council [Mains drainage Roadway] [NiH]

Road drainage causing problems [B]

Broadband as soon as possible [Betton]

Broadband is awful. Tried to fill this form in online but link fails before I can complete it. Yet we are on super-fast!! [NiH]

Broadband signal is poor. Rubbish collections - binmen to pick up any rubbish they drop whilst collecting. This makes our street untidy and a hazard to animals [NiH]

Q55 Do you have any comments on any of these facilities or other community facilities?

Thirty respondents left a comment and most of these have been reported under the appropriate graph in the previous question, the remainder is shown below:

Would be nice to develop the sports and [can't read word] for children future. E g hard tennis court, cricket practice nets (winter), skate park etc [NiH]

Q56 If anyone in your household has any further comments about the neighbourhood plan or if they wish to expand on any earlier comments then please do so below.

One respondent enclosed an additional letter (re Q18) and this has been scanned and passed to the clerk for Adderley Parish to share with the steering group. The other 38 comments received are shown below. There are a few comments directly aimed at the steering group or are things the steering group could act on by way of information sharing including further guidance, so the community understands the power (teeth) of a neighbourhood plan. These comments are highlighted in bold.

A milk vending machine similar to the one recently trailed at Fordhall farm would be a marvellous addition to the village if it were in a 24hr accessible location (such as outside the pub) preferably supporting one of the local dairy farms.

Church is such an important building - but financially must be difficult to keep going. Any support would be useful as apart from looking nice it's important for christenings, weddings and funerals. Support could come from new developments?? CIL Money

I think the development of new housing in N-i-H over the past 10 years has already damaged the village. We have 2 housing developments that have never been finished despite being started over 3 years ago. Surely a 'finishing date' should be imposed on builders to ensure developments are completed. We are left with derelict sites. Planning applications run out after 3 yrs - why not impose this on half-finished buildings?

In terms of the neighbourhood plan - I think it would be helpful to provide some details in relation to the geographical size of the three parishes, population numbers, number of households, farms, businesses etc to give more context to the questionnaire/proposals and the help aid answering the questions in a more informed manner

It is important to highlight both the positives and negatives of having a neighbourhood plan to all residents to ensure everyone is able to make an informed decision about whether they agree with its implementation.

School parking in Norton is a major issue, it needs to be addressed ASAP

Excellent questionnaire

Thank you for putting this together.

This is a comprehensive document and my wife, and I have taken great care to respond. We have lived in Betton since 1989 and taken a full and active part in village life. 10 years as a Parish Councillor, 6 years as chairman also inter alia chaired the community website committee since 2004. Overall, we have been delighted with our home, the environment and village life. We have no wish to see it 'pickled in aspic'. The future development should be minimal and overtures from local and national government to develop housing in-inappropriately should be resisted. **Thank you for your time and effort.**

We do feel Norton in Hales has been exposed to too much housing development over the last five years and this has been accentuated as a disadvantage by the lack of developers to complete their development. There should be some way of ensuring there is an end date for completion with some sort of fine for not completing within a given time frame. No more than ONE site should be under development at any one time and a second should not take place until the previous one has been completed.

We hope your efforts will be worthwhile. The previous public consultation and resulting plan was completely ignored by the planning authority.

Thank you to the team for coming together to drive this plan to completion!

As always with community consultation on this scale to inform a neighbourhood plan, some of the issues raised by respondents are not within the scope of a neighbourhood plan and we advise that evidence relating to any aspects not strictly concerned with land use, is referred to the three Parish Councils to take these further.