

FMNP Community Questionnaire Analysis

Business, the Local Economy and Employment

Preliminary research identified 43 existing businesses or places of employment, predominantly farming, building and education, and 25 occupations.

Combined findings from the main questionnaire and business supplementary questionnaire.

Age and employment status of respondents:

Employment status	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents	Notes
In full time or part time employment including training schemes	38.3	51	may include people who are self-employed and/or in education
Self employed	32.3	43	
Full or part time education	18.1	24	
Permanently disabled	7.0	7	
Unemployed	5.0	5	
Retired	59.3	79	

Commuting to work:

Place of employment	Percentage of respondents*	Number of respondents
At home	38.0	50
Within 10 miles from home	34.2	26
Over 30 miles from home	23.7	18
Between 10 and 30 miles from home	22.4	17
Within the civil parish	11.5	9

(* respondents by household, will not add to 100)

Support for provision for business development:

In order of acceptability	% of respondents	Specific comments and suggestions by individuals
Tourist accommodation	71.7	There is a need for more b and b's
Start up space, indoor	56.6	
Offices	54.7	Including training space
Retail	52.8	There is a shop in the parish already
Light industrial	42.3	Including craft outlet, workshops
Start up space, outdoor	40.7	Including community allotments for commercial produce
Storage	26.4	

Preference of sites for future business:

Type of premises	In support	Against
Using redundant farm buildings	91.3%	5.5
Reusing existing buildings	86.7	6.2
Purpose built on edge of parish	45.9	32.8
Within new housing	40.3	34.9

Current businesses and employment opportunities include:

Post Offices and Stores, farming and forestry, education and childcare, building and carpentry, consultancies, furniture restoration, live in carers, pottery, fencing and hedging, car sales and maintenance, gardening, tourist accommodation, The Fontmell, Surgery and cosmetic services, taxi, window cleaning, thatching. The list is not exclusive. There was no response from the equestrian community.

Factors identified by respondents as important or worth consideration in shaping local policy:

- The school has capacity for more pupils providing further employment opportunities and additional educational provision. One reason the school is undersubscribed it has been suggested, is that parking problems are deterring new parents. Together with the preschool the school is able to offer good quality 'wrap around care' for children aged 2 to 11 years from 8 am to 6pm. The high level of support for educational facilities and child care has implications for all areas of neighbourhood planning in particular, housing, infrastructure and the local economy. Respondents point out

that a local school enables parents to work and contributes to the vitality of the parish.

- There are very poor or non-existent broadband and WiFi links in some parts, and less than desirable coverage, in most of the parish. This has obvious implications for existing business and for encouraging new ventures.
- The capacity and safety of the road network is a cause for concern to 89.2% of respondents, in particular around the school (83.84%) and plans for future business premises should take this into account when proposing sites and function.
- A professional business network and ways to improve intra-village economic cooperation were proposed. Other suggestions which involve the local economy included a garden centre, an agency supplying community support for the elderly, a skills training centre for traditional crafts, cycle hire outlet, an agency facilitating home working, community work and volunteering.
- The visual impact, setting and characteristics of premises are relevant to over 90% of respondents.
- Several respondents referred to the need to encourage growth in the parish to prevent it from becoming moribund.

Planning

Shaping policy	Action	Owned by
There is concern about congestion around the school. Planning for new homes might include ways to alleviate the problem by providing a new access point.	The focus groups for housing and business will address this issue jointly	
Broadband, WiFi and mobile phone coverage is non-existent, poor or not as good as it could be.	Identify which parts of the parish have the strongest connectivity In conjunction with others Lobby service providers	

<p>There is a clear preference for future businesses to feature tourism.</p>	<p>Find out if B&B's and other places providing accommodation are over-subscribed and if so at which times of the year and by how much.</p> <p>Identify gaps in the tourist/activities industry in North Dorset</p>	
<p>Start up space (indoor), offices and retail outlets have moderate support.</p>	<p>Ask owners offering sites and premises how they envisage their property being used or developed and if they have any restrictions.</p> <p>Discourage the provision of storage facilities</p>	
<p>Providing local employment will contribute to reducing pressure on the environment</p>	<p>Approach local employment agencies to determine which skills are over-subscribed and therefore likely to benefit from further employment opportunities</p>	
<p>Climate change is acknowledged and there is a well-supported (67.4%) consideration of a community energy saving scheme</p>	<p>The focus groups for Natural Environment and Business could jointly identify sites for a community scheme and determine the type of scheme most likely to be of benefit to the parish</p>	
<p>Suggestions for employment opportunities such as care of the elderly, training in traditional crafts and community network amongst others might be suitable for housing in redundant farm buildings</p>	<p>Identify redundant buildings</p> <p>Survey the locality to identify gaps in business opportunities</p>	
<p>Traffic congestion</p>	<p>Identify sites and buildings with the best links and access and which will not further compromise the A350</p>	