



2014 QUESTIONNAIRE



Prepared by The Pirton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

MAP of Pirton

Proposed development sites and village boundary extension
(Labelled PT1 and PT2)



North Herts District
Council Draft Local
plan
Published 14th
November 2014

Do not
Wait for you

A Letter from Diane Burleigh OBE - Chair of the Steering Group, to the people of Pirton



Dear All,

Most of us in Pirton have a good feeling about living here. It is very pleasant and can be both enjoyable and rewarding, given the many groups and activities we have in the village, not to mention its excellent location. So it is essential that we as a community have some means of ensuring that we continue to have these good feelings in the future.

From the various comments our Steering Group has received since it became an officially recognised body, there is no doubt that future development in our village is the single most important issue expressed by villagers. We wish to see our village environment develop gradually, whilst retaining the core of what makes Pirton such a lovely place to live – that phrase encapsulates the most common response we have received.

The Steering Group is involved in a process which will lead to the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan for Pirton, and this can only be accomplished if the village community engages in that process. The questionnaires for both adults and our youth are the most important mechanism the Steering Group has in gaining your views on the five main issues which have emerged from our consultation with the community to date.

It is so important that as many villagers as possible complete the questionnaire, as that way the views of most of the village community can be received, and thereafter form the core of the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan.

As you are reading this open letter, can I thank you for taking the opportunity to become part of this process.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Burleigh OBE
Chair of Pirton Neighbourhood Plan
Steering Group

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Pirton Neighbourhood Plan

The future of our village

Have your say Questionnaire

Help produce a plan for the future of
Pirton that reflects **YOUR** views.

Please ask every adult age 16 or over in your household
to complete an individual questionnaire.

The completed questionnaires will be collected during the
week-end of 29th/30th November 2014

Please remember, there is no right or wrong response,
we just need to know what **YOU** think!

Introduction

If the people of Pirton do not have their say, others will.

This Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire is one of the most important undertaken in Pirton. There will be development in Pirton in the next 20 years. A Neighbourhood Plan can be the voice of the community in guiding development, infrastructure and facilities, and will be instrumental in the shaping the future of our village.

What is this questionnaire for?

This questionnaire is to gather evidence from everyone living in Pirton. The evidence from this questionnaire, along with other evidence, will inform the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan.

Previous consultations and surveys, such as the Pirton Parish Plan, the Housing Needs Survey and the Village Design Statement, have been used to inform the design of this questionnaire and will also be used to inform the content of the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan.

Robust evidence is needed for our Neighbourhood Plan, as it is a legally binding document. We are asking **every** adult in Pirton to fill in a questionnaire to make sure his or her voice is heard.

What is the Neighbourhood Plan and why do we need one?

A Neighbourhood Plan allows communities to shape their development. The Government is placing emphasis on planning at the local level because it believes that local people know best what local needs are and how they can be met.

A Neighbourhood Plan outlines what the community would like with regards to housing, business and community facilities. There must be general conformity with the North Herts District Council (NHDC) Local Plan strategy and policies.

This means, although the Neighbourhood Plan will not stop development, it can stipulate guidelines for the size and style of developments as well as indicate local amenities, facilities and infrastructure the community requires.

The Pirton Neighbourhood Plan (PNP) will cover the same period as the NHDC Local Plan. That is from now until 2031.

This Neighbourhood Plan, if approved in a village referendum, will also set out legally binding policies on how land in and around Pirton can be used until 2031.

North Herts District Council (NHDC) Local Plan

Under current local and central government policies, a policy of 'no development' in Pirton is not an available option, so please bear this in mind when completing the questionnaire. NHDC have substantial targets for new homes throughout North Hertfordshire.

Several sites across North Hertfordshire have been identified for housing development, including two proposed sites in Pirton.

The NHDC Local Plan draft housing numbers released in a press release on 16th October 2014 proposes 142 dwellings be built in Pirton between 2011 and 2031. There will be a public consultation about the draft NHDC Local Plan across North Hertfordshire from mid December 2014 through to the end of January 2015. Evidence from the responses in this questionnaire will be provided to NHDC during this consultation period. You can additionally express your opinion in writing either for or against these proposals to NHDC, before the closing date of 31st January 2015.

Guide to the Questionnaire

What do I need to do? What happens next? How confidential are my answers?

You will have received more than one questionnaire:

1. The **Household Questionnaire** – this is a separate document and only one of these is to be completed for each household.
2. The main **Individual Questionnaire** – is completed by each person aged over 16 in your household. When your questionnaires were delivered by your PNP Representative you were asked how many individuals aged 16 or over live in your household and received individual questionnaire for each of them.
3. The **Youth Questionnaire** – a separate Youth Questionnaire for each member of your household between the ages of 10 up to and including 15. You will only receive this if you have people of this age in your household.

What do I need to do?

Please complete your questionnaire. For each question there are instructions to let you know whether to tick one box or several. When you have completed the questionnaire please put it in the envelope provided and seal it. The PNP Representative will call to collect the envelope.

What happens next?

Household surveys and paper copies of the individual survey will be collected from your house by your Pirton Neighbourhood Plan (PNP) representative during the weekend of 29th/30th November 2014.

If you are not in when the Representative calls, you can telephone Tom Gammell on 01462 712725 to arrange a convenient time for your questionnaire to be collected.

Questionnaires will be forwarded to Becky Lewis for data entry and analysis. Becky is a market researcher who has offered professional advice on the questionnaire design and who will analyse the results of this survey.

A public meeting will be arranged to inform everyone of the results from this survey together with any implications and recommendations for the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan.

Confidentiality

We will not be matching your answers to your address; we do not want to know your address, just your post code. We guarantee that the content of the returned questionnaires will remain confidential and will be used only by our professional market researcher for the purpose of the Plan.

Our Market Researcher Becky is a member of the Market Research Society (MRS) and abides by the MRS code of conduct. She is registered as a data controller with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and has been accepted by Locality (the government agency for the implementation of Neighbourhood Plans).

Your individual responses will not be reported, but your data will be analysed alongside everyone else in the village and the aggregated results will be reported.

Queries

If you have any queries about completing this questionnaire please contact Tom Gammell on 01462 712725.

If you would like more information about the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan please visit the website (www.pirtonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk) or join the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan Facebook group.

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1. Quality of Life

What Pirton means to you

We'd like to know what is most important to you about Pirton

L1) What does living in Pirton mean to you?

Please write in your answer

L2) Thinking of all aspects of living in Pirton how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with living in the village?

Please tick one answer

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Quite dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

L3) Any other comments about life in Pirton?

Please write in your answer

L4) How important do you think it is for Pirton to have a Neighbourhood Plan for the next 15 - 20 years?

Please tick one answer

- Very important
- Quite important
- Not important
- Not sure

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2. Amenities and facilities

Which facilities do you use in Pirton? Which should remain in Pirton? The questions below are based on those listed most important in previous consultations.

A1) How often do you use, or visit, each of these in Pirton?

Please put one tick on that line indicating how often you use or visit it

	At least once a week	1-3 times a month	1-11 times a year	Less than once a year	Never used
Pubs					
Shop					
Post Office					
Village Hall					
Sports & Social club					
Recreation ground					
Playground at rec					
Primary school					
Bus to secondary school					
Bus					
Church					
Methodist Chapel					
JoyCare					
Good Neighbour Scheme					
Pre-school					
Fish and chip van					
Mobile library					

A2) How important is it to you is it that each of these remains in Pirton?

Please put a tick on each line

	Very Important	Quite important	Neither important nor not important	Not very important	Not at all important
Pubs					
Shop					
Post Office					
Village Hall					
Sports & Social club					
Recreation ground					
Playground at rec					
Primary school					
Bus to secondary school					
Bus					
Church					
Methodist Chapel					
JoyCare					
Good Neighbour Scheme					
Pre-school					
Fish and chip van					
Mobile library					

A3) Are there any other amenities and facilities you would like to see in Pirton between now and 2031?

Please write in your answer

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3. Housing and Development

- We know from previous consultations that development is a topic many people in Pirton are passionate about.
- We are keen to ensure that the views of people currently living here are taken into account in any future planning and development. It is therefore crucial that we have reliable, valid and robust data to use as evidence.
- When answering the questions think about the needs of the village and both the positive and negative effects of sizes and types of development on the future character and infrastructure of the village.
- There is very little land available for development within the existing village development boundary and any future housing development in Pirton may have to be outside the village boundary. We have included a map of the village showing the village development boundary, current at the time of printing.
- There are currently 490 houses in Pirton. Around 90 of those have been built in the last 30 years.
- Most of the houses in Pirton have between 2 and 4 bedrooms. Generally, Pirton households are made up of one to four people. In fact, half of the households in Pirton are made of one or two people.
- The present North Herts District Council draft proposal is for 142 houses to be built in Pirton between 2011 and 2031. This proposal is subject to consultation.

H1) How many houses do you think should be built in Pirton between now and 2031?

Please tick one answer

- 1-10
- 11-25
- 26-50
- 51-75
- 76-100
- 101-125
- 126-150
- 151-175
- 176-200
- 201+

H2) Thinking of the total you have given in H1, how many houses do you think should be built in Pirton every 5 years? Please give a tick for each column of 5 years in the table below.

Please tick one answer for each column

	Now - 2016	2017 - 2021	2022 - 2026	2027 - 2031
1-10				
11-25				
26-50				
51-75				
76-100				
101-125				
126-150				
151-175				
176-200				
201+				

H3) What size houses do you think should be built in Pirton between now and 2031?

(See H3 column below)

H4) What size houses do you think should be built in the next 5 years?

Please tick as many answers as you would like for each column

	H3) now - 2031	H4) next 5 years
One bedroom		
Two bedroom		
Three bedroom		
Four bedroom		
Five bedroom		
Six or more bedrooms		
No preference		
Other (please write in your suggestion)		

H5) Do you think developments of ten houses/units or more should be built:

Please tick one

To look the same	
In a similar style	
In a variety of styles	
No preference	
Don't know	
Other (please write in your suggestions)	

H6) For developments of ten houses/units or more do you think they should be:

Please tick any you would like to see in Pirton

Bungalows	
Terraced housing	
Semi-detached housing	
Detached housing	
3 storey buildings	
Flats in a block	
No preference	
Don't know	
Other (please write in your suggestions)	

H7) For developments of ten houses/units or more do you think:

Please tick one

They should all have gardens	
Some should have gardens	
None should have gardens	
They should have communal gardens	
No preference/ don't know	
Other (please write in your suggestion)	

H8) Which of the following do you think should be built in Pirton between now and 2031:

You can tick as many answers as you would like

Sheltered accommodation with a warden	
Social rented housing (owned and let by the Local Authority)	
Affordable rented housing managed by Housing Associations)	
Shared Ownership (provided through Housing Associations)	
Rented privately on open market	
Owner occupied - bought outright or with a mortgage on open market	
No preference/ don't know	
Other (<i>please write in your suggestion</i>)	

H9) Do you think houses/units built in Pirton between now and 2031 should be:

You can tick as many answers as you would like

Houses suitable for downsizing	
Houses suitable for first time buyers	
Houses for local people	
Houses suitable for the elderly	
None of these	
No preference/ don't know	

H10) Would your preference for houses/units built in Pirton between now and 2031 be:

Please tick one answer

On current infill spaces, including gardens and accessible parcels of land within the current village development boundary

Outside of the current village development boundary

A mixture of both

No preference/ don't know

H11) Would your preference for houses/units built in Pirton between now and 2031 be:

Please tick one answer only

One development of over 100 houses

A few (eg 1-4) developments of around 50 -70 houses/units

Several developments of 25-50 houses/units

Several developments of 10-25 houses/units

All developments of less than 10 houses/units

No preference/ don't know

Other (*please write in your suggestion*)

Map of Pirton Village (See inside front cover)

This map of Pirton shows:

- The current development boundary inside which there is currently limited scope for development
- The two sites proposed by North Herts District Council (NHDC) for potential development in Pirton, both of which are outside the current development boundary. If these sites are chosen, NHDC has stated that it will extend the development boundary to include them, if no other sustainable sites are available.

H12) North Herts District Council (NHDC) has identified two sites for potential development in Pirton. These are at Holwell turn (site 214), and East of Priors Hill South (site 64South) and marked on the map shown on the inside front cover.

Do you think development in Pirton between now and 2031 should be on these sites or should alternative sites be identified and assessed?

You can tick as many or as few answers as you would like

Holwell Turn

Priors Hill South

Other sites inside the village boundary should be identified and assessed

Other sites outside of the village boundary should be identified and assessed

No preference/ don't know

Other (*please write in your suggestion*)

H13) If 100 or more houses were built in Pirton between now and 2031, which of these facilities and amenities do you think would need to be expanded or improved?

Please tick as many as you think apply

Pre-school	
Primary school	
Facilities for young people	
Facilities for older people	
Shop	
Pubs and dining	
Leisure facilities	
Sports and social club	
Community centre	
Bus services	
Health facilities (e.g. doctor, nurses, dentist)	
Off-road parking	
Allotments	
Business opportunities	
Communications such as internet and telecoms	
Footpaths and bridleways	
Roads into and out of the village	
Roads within the village	
Other (please write in your suggestions)	

H14) What are the advantages of development in Pirton?

Please write in your answer

H15) What are your concerns about development in Pirton?

Please write in your answer

H15) Do you think development in Pirton in the next 15-20 years should include business units?

Please tick one answer

Yes

No

Not sure / don't know

H16) Are you aware of the Village Design Statement?

Please tick one answer

Yes

No

Not sure / don't know

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4. Environment and Heritage

The questions in this section are based on a recurring theme from all the previous consultations of the importance of preserving the beauty, character and heritage of the village and its surroundings. Whilst all proposals for development must comply with European, National and Local policy, the Neighbourhood Plan could provide an additional layer of protection for aspects of the Parish.

E1) How important is it to you to have green space between Pirton and neighbouring villages and towns?

Please tick one answer

Very important
Quite important
Not important
Not sure / don't know

E2) How important is it to you to minimise impact of development on woodland, hedges, footpaths, bridleways, green lanes, ponds, streams, verges and geological features?

Please tick one answer

Very important
Quite important
Not important
Not sure / don't know

E3) How important is it to you to minimise impact of development on historical buildings and heritage sites?

Please tick one answer

Very important
Quite important
Not important
Not sure / don't know

E4) How important to you are the views/vistas approaching and leaving the village?

Very important
Quite important
Not important
Not sure / don't know

E5) Which views / vistas in, and surrounding the village do you think should be preserved?

Please write in your answer

E6) Any other comments about environment and/or heritage issues

Please write in your answer

5. Transport and Communication

Transport, parking, speed limits and communications are issues that affect many people in Pirton and often divide opinion. We want to collect up-to-date robust information in this questionnaire. The Neighbourhood Plan may be able to make recommendations on changing and improving these aspects of living in Pirton.

T1) In your opinion, do you think future development in Pirton should have off-road parking?

Please tick one answer

Yes- **Only** off road parking

Some off-road parking but ability to also park on road

No- **no** need for off road parking

Not sure / don't know

T2) How important to you is improved broadband service in Pirton?

Please tick one answer

Very important

Quite important

Not important

Not sure / Don't know

T3) How important to you is improved mobile phone services in Pirton?

Please tick one answer

Very important

Quite important

Not important

Not sure / Don't know

T4) Do you think the speed limit in Pirton should be reduced from 30mph to 20mph

Please tick one answer

Yes throughout the village

Yes in certain locations

No

Not sure / Don't know

T5) Within the village do you think certain locations should be 20mph please specify them here:

Please write in your answer

T6) If the existing public bus service were to be reduced further or removed, would you be prepared to contribute towards a village community bus service?

Please tick one answer

Yes, definitely

Maybe

No

Not sure / Don't know

5. About You

These final questions will help us in the analysis of the results and also in providing recommendations for the Neighbourhood Plan. We will not be using them to identify individual people but to look at the views of groups in the village such as the elderly, those with school age children or those who work at home.

D1) Which of these age groups are you in

Please tick one line

16-20	
21-25	
26-30	
31-35	
36-40	
41-45	
46-50	
51-55	
56-60	
61-65	
66-70	
71-75	
76-80	
81+	

D2) What is your gender?

Please tick

Male Female

D3) Do you think you would consider moving within Pirton in the next 20 years?

Please tick one answer

Yes, to a smaller house

Yes, to a larger house

No

Not sure / don't know

D4) Are you currently:

Please tick one answer

Employed full-time	
Employed part-time	
Self employed	
Retired	
Unemployed and looking for work	
Unemployed but not looking for work including full-time carer, long term sick or disabled unable to work, unwaged housewife/husband.	
Student (including school/college/university)	
Other	

D5) If you are currently employed, self-employed or a student, where do you usually work, train or study?

Please tick one answer

<i>Pirton</i>	
<i>Hitchin</i>	
<i>Stevenage</i>	
<i>Letchworth</i>	
<i>Elsewhere in Hertfordshire</i>	
<i>Luton</i>	
<i>Bedford</i>	
<i>Elsewhere in Bedfordshire</i>	
<i>Cambridge or Cambridgeshire</i>	
<i>London</i>	
<i>Elsewhere (please write in where)</i>	

D6) Thinking of your usual job, do you ever work from home in Pirton?

Please tick one answer

Yes at least once a week

Yes but less often than once a week

No

Not working

If there is anything else you would like to add about the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan or this questionnaire then please write in your comments here:

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A Big Thank you

To everyone from the village of Pirton who has taken the time to fill in this questionnaire.

To Becky Lewis of 'The Insight Fountain' for all her time and expertise in designing the questionnaires and analysing the survey data.

Becky grew up in Pirton and attended Pirton School. She has worked in Market Research for the last 15 years and is a member of the Market Research Society (MRS) and abides by the MRS code of conduct. You can verify this by checking her company details, The Insight Fountain, with the MRS's online register at www.mrs.org.uk or by telephone 020 7566 1820. Becky has been approved by Locality, the Agency Her Majesty's Government has established to monitor and implement Neighbourhood Plans in England.

To Andy Lomas of Priority Print for all his considerable help with the printing.

To Maxine Shearer for her photograph of the Blacksmiths pond on the front cover.

To the children of Pirton for entering the drawing competition at the Summer Fair.

To the Pirton Youth Council for their help with the Youth Questionnaire.

To our volunteer Representatives who both delivered and collected the questionnaires from every house in Pirton.



At the Pirton Summer Fair the children of the village were invited to enter a drawing competition. They were asked to base their drawings on what they liked about the village.

Eve Cook was the competition winner and we are delighted to be able to reproduce her entry here.

