



YMCA LINCOLNSHIRE

# Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Analysis May 2021

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# Included in this presentation

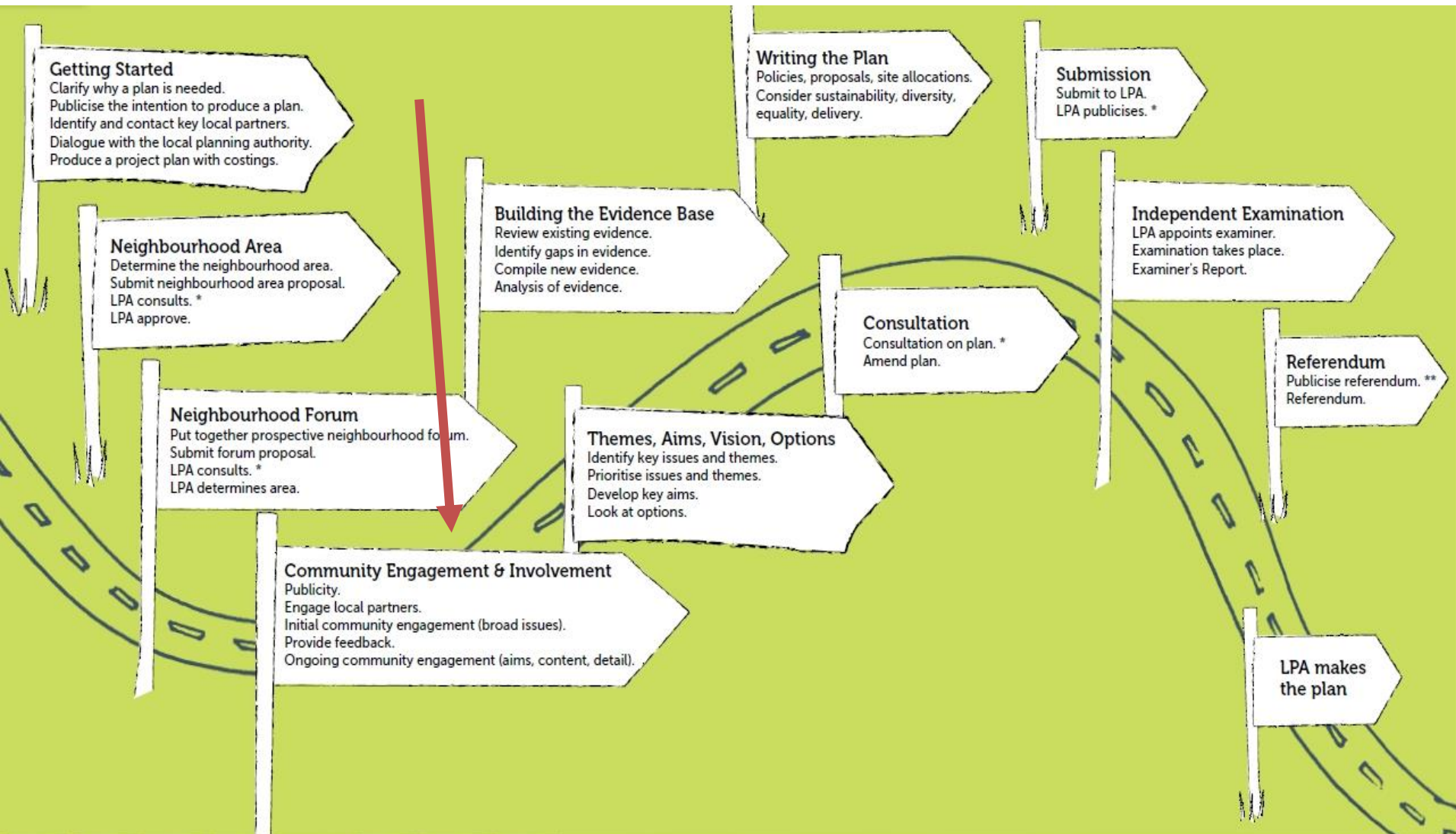
- The purpose of the questionnaires
- How this consultation fits into the Neighbourhood Plan Roadmap
- Summary of the analysis
- Next Steps
- Questions

# The purpose of the questionnaires

- Identify issues and themes that will support the formation of a vision and objectives
- These will underpin the policies and content of the final plan
- To involve the community in the process - sense of ownership
- “Buy- in” at referendum



# How this consultation fits into the Neighbourhood Plan Roadmap



# Summary of the analysis

2 questionnaires: Household (519 completed) and Business (26 completed)

## Household

- Thematic areas determined by the Baseline Questionnaire
- Analysis shows that all age groups were represented (household age range):

50 years and over 42.50%

36-50 years 16.92%

18-35 years 16.27%

0-18 years 24.30%

- Association with the town 80.5% over 6 years

# Community Safety

- Majority of respondents feel safe
- Direct experience of anti-social behaviour 15%
- Mainly minor examples of anti-social behaviour i.e. verbal abuse
- Feeling unsafe in specific areas (362 responses recorded): at night, unlit areas, alleyways, where people drinking alcohol outside public houses, car parks



## Comment

Consider how planning policies developed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan can support safer communities (evidence building)

Non planning actions could include working with pubs to ensure public safety, public awareness regarding keeping safe, Neighbourhood Watch

# The Environment and Sleaford's Heritage

Identified respondents key priorities for action

- Visual improvements: reduction in waste and litter, enhance and protect green spaces, environmental improvements to River Sle

## Comment

Neighbourhood profile/ green space assessment will be important in mapping green spaces and heritage assets in the town as part of building the evidence base

Non planning actions could include community litter picking, perhaps involving schools?

Take your waste home campaign



# Highways, Transport and Parking

- Congestion and car parking longstanding issues further explored
- Public transport use is low 1.6% for getting around town, 6.2% travelling out of town
- Good support for actions that could improve the opportunity to walk and cycle e.g. creation of additional paths and cycle ways in new developments linking to the town centre, upgrade of existing paths and cycle ways

## Comment

There is an opportunity for this plan to develop policies that will support the reduction in car usage. Non planning actions could include campaigns/incentives that encourage walking/cycling



# Housing and Development

Allocation of housing in Sleaford has been mostly determined by the Central Lincolnshire Plan. The purpose of the questionnaire was to identify respondents' views :

- Housing types: high level of support for bungalows as well as houses
- Size of dwellings: relatively even weighting for both smaller (under 3 bed) and over 3 bed properties
- Design: support for actions that will mitigate climate change; sustainable energy efficient design and construction
- Building considerations: support for appropriate investment in infrastructure. Ensuring adequate parking and services are provided to offset the increase in dwellings and population

# Housing and Development

- Although the need for houses on the open market received the highest percentage return, comments from responders showed support for Affordable Housing. 50/12

The definition of affordable housing was included in the questionnaire:

\*Affordable Housing is housing for local people whose needs cannot be met on the open market; usually provided by a housing association or local authority. This includes homes for rent, shared ownership, discounted market sales housing and other affordable routes to home ownership



# Leisure and Arts

- The importance of open spaces is again illustrated in this section of the questionnaire. Respondents are also supportive of improvements to and provision of more open spaces and play facilities
- Continued support for a cinema in the town was recorded

## **Comment**

Neighbourhood profiling/ green space assessment will be an important part of the evidence base in identifying any new open spaces that could be mapped and included in the plan

Town Council could look to address potential improvements to play facilities

Progress or otherwise of cinema development should be publicised

# The Local Economy

- Support for improvements to Sleaford's street scene as a way of making the town more attractive (Highest weighted average)
- Attracting more visitors through improvements to Sleaford's café culture (Second highest weighted average)
- Concern over empty shops was a key strand in the baseline survey. Asked whether empty shops could be granted change of use permissions (Third highest weighted average)
- Access to affordable parking was a key strand of the baseline questionnaire. Although not a key feature of this questionnaire, a significant number of comments in support of more affordable parking were recorded by respondents to the business questionnaire

## Comment

Non planning actions could include external painting of empty shops/ floral displays

The precinct's lack of character was commented on in the baseline survey as in need of attention



# Accessibility



This section of the questionnaire targeted families/individuals who may experience difficulty accessing facilities/services in the town

- Completed by 57.75% of all respondents
- Barriers encountered by respondents or family members: uneven roads and pavements, narrow pavements and doorways, feeling unsafe when crossing roads
- Required improvements to facilities (e.g. access to shops, public toilets) pavements and kerbs were seen as important in improving accessibility

## **Comment**

Engage disability groups in development of Neighbourhood Planning policies

# Business Questionnaire

- Low response rate - Covid could be a contributing factor?
- A cross sector of businesses represented
- Over 40% of respondents operate their business from the town centre; 3 indicated they were not based in the town
- 80%+ of respondents owner, director or partner
- 81% limited company or sole trader (sole trader 42%)
- Over 50% operating as a business for 6 years+
- 2 respondents indicated they employed more than 25 staff
- Covid has impacted on 88% of business respondents (44% significantly)
- Brighter future - 44%

# Business Questionnaire

## Improvements

- Increased business space to support expansion - 34.5%
- 40% (10) would like to see affordable meeting rooms/training facilities/start up business units
- Infrastructure improvements (broadband, mobile phone, electricity supply)
- Lack of skilled workforce
- Opportunities for business networking



# Business Questionnaire

## Improvements shared with household respondents

- Improved parking facilities:
  - 15 businesses indicated not adequate
  - 75% consider free parking to be an important facility for their business
- Lowering of business rates/availability of suitable business premises
- Empty shops not attracting visitors/customers



# Business Questionnaire

## Sleaford selling points

- Growth of the town (70% )
- Low crime
- Attractive town
- Good quality schools and quality of life



# Next Steps

- Feedback - media, event
- Developing of vision and objectives (thematic areas)
- Building on evidence base
- Prep of draft plan
- Continued engagement important throughout (legal requirement at draft plan stage)
- Submit plan to NKDC - further consultation
- Examination
- Referendum
- Made !!



# Questions



*Thank you*