

# **RENHOLD PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY**

## **‘AND THE SCORES FROM THE RENHOLD JURY ARE...’**

In mid-September 2020, the Renhold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (RNPWG) circulated a questionnaire to all households in the parish to gather residents’ opinions on what’s good about Renhold now, what could be better and people’s aspirations for the future.

136 completed forms were returned from the 1,375 households in Renhold, with responses received from all five ‘Ends’ of the village and each of the three ‘new’ estates. What was most striking was the obvious passion evident in every response for the place in which we live and whilst a wide range of opinions were expressed, a number of clear themes emerged.

## Positive aspects of living in Renhold

Residents were asked to list up to three positive aspects of living in Renhold. 36 different factors were cited, but the most frequent responses in order were:

- Friendly neighbourhood/community feel/community spirit
- Access to the countryside/footpath network
- Village atmosphere/identity
- Countryside/open space
- Peace/quiet/tranquillity
- Close to amenities in Bedford
- Local shop/post office
- Dark skies policy

## Negative aspects of living in Renhold

Residents were asked to list up to three things that they do not like about living in Renhold. A wider range of individual factors were identified (67), but the most frequent responses in order were:

- Too much traffic/traffic noise
- Constant threat of housing developments
- Speeding traffic
- Inappropriate location of the village school/school parking
- Poor condition road surfaces and footpaths
- Verge parking (mostly Hookham's Lane)
- Litter/dumped waste
- Inadequate grass cutting/ tree/ hedge maintenance

## The future evolution of Renhold

Respondents were asked how they would like to see Renhold evolve over the next 10 years. In all 51 themes were identified, but the most frequent responses in order were:

- Small-scale housing development in appropriate places/small infills
- Maintain the rural/village character
- Preserve the parish as it is/no more housing
- Deter through traffic/traffic calming
- Preservation/enhancement of countryside/habitats
- Activities to bring the village together/community facilities
- Upgrade footpaths and bridleways to encourage non-vehicular travel
- Keep a separation between Bedford and Renhold

## Action Plan

The RNPWG will now take the issues and aspirations identified and start to develop the content and themes of the Neighbourhood Plan. Given the value placed by residents on the countryside, its preservation and access to it, an early piece of work will be a 'Green Infrastructure Study', which will be developed in full consultation with the local community.

The full results can be viewed via the website at [www.renhold-pc.co.uk](http://www.renhold-pc.co.uk). If you didn't respond to our original survey and now wish that you had, we'd still be pleased to receive your views. The questionnaire can be accessed at [www.renholdnpwg@gmail.com](mailto:www.renholdnpwg@gmail.com) or 'phone Amanda Quince on 01234-870704 who will deliver one to you. All additional comments returned will be added to the responses already received.