Key findings

Vision and the three supporting objectives

When looking at the vision and the three supporting objectives, all three objectives were felt to be important (both very and fairly important) by respondents, although there was stronger support (higher proportion of very important) for the first two:

> 1. Support successful farming and appropriate small business development, supported by efficient communication and other services, where members of the community can find worthwhile employment.
> 2. Develop the parishes in such a way that their distinctiveness and attractiveness are maintained and enhanced yet cater for the needs of all age groups.

The most highly valued assets within How Caple, Sollershope and Yatton were 'its situation within a beautiful landscape', 'rural nature of the parishes' and 'living in an area with a thriving natural habitat'. The aspects which respondents most disliked were 'polytunnels', 'traffic' and 'lack of amenities, e.g. shop, pub'.

Environment

In terms of the environment in which respondents live, close to 90% wanted to 'preserve existing woodland' followed by over 70% of respondents who wanted to 'preserve river meadows', 'preserve orchards' and 'safeguard views over and from the parishes'.

In terms of development in an AONB, respondents felt that 'woodland creation', 'development of farm buildings for residential or office use' and 'agricultural buildings or farm expansion' were appropriate. Respondents specifically did not want to see new roads.

Over the next 15 years in order to ensure that the parishes thrive, respondents felt that most of the options suggested would need to be addressed, with over 50% agreeing with:

- Producing local renewable energy by sun, water or biomass
- Building homes that exceed government energy efficient standards
- Allocating land to enable residents to grow their own food
- Walking, cycling, going by bus more and driving own cars less
- Attracting younger people to live in our Parish

In comparison, over half of the respondents did not feel 'Producing local renewable energy by developing wind power' would help the parishes.

One hundred and seven respondents provided at least one name of a heritage site or structure and its location which should be safeguarded from inappropriate adjacent development. Of these a large majority stated all three churches in the group parishes. Further names and locations included 'Garraway House', 'Mottes', the 'River Wye' and 'Sollershope Court'.

Over three quarters of respondents felt that all the following effects were important in deciding the acceptability of change of land use:

- Makes intrusive noise
- Visually out of character with its surroundings
- Makes unpleasant smells
- Causes noticeable increase in road traffic

Respondents were most in favour of a 'bio-digester plant' from which the community can buy into cheaper electricity, when looking at potential new uses of land in the countryside to generate power. However, this only amounted to 40% of respondents who would accept this method, compared to 38% who did not accept it. All other power generating options received higher proportions of respondents who did not accept compared to those who did.

In terms of developments to harness energy from natural resources, there were high proportions (over 60%) who felt that private individuals should be able to do so from:

- Capturing natural heat in the ground, e.g. Ground Source Heat Pumps
- The power of the sun e.g. solar panels or photo voltaic panel arrays
- Water power e.g. hydropower
- Burning wood pellets, e.g. Biomass plants

There was much lower support for commercial developments to harness energy from natural resources, however over half the respondents still felt 'capturing natural heat in the ground' was acceptable for commercial organisations, followed by 'water power'.

Respondents were not as supportive of wind power for either private individuals or commercial organisations, but particularly not commercial organisations.

There wasn't a lot of support for community projects around harnessing natural energy. 'Ground source heat pumps', 'air source heat pumps' and 'hydro power schemes' received the greatest support, with between 40% and 50% of respondents who would support and invest as well as the lowest proportion in opposition (those who would not support). Over half of respondents would not support 'multiple wind turbines' and 'large scale photo voltaic array'.

Half of respondents felt there should be a requirement to install renewable energy systems in all new buildings in the parishes, compared to 28% who didn't and 22% who had no opinion.

109 respondents had been affected by flooding, nearly half of the 229 respondents. The most common complaints were 'field run-off', 'defective drains or ditches' and 'road run-off'.

Housing

When thinking about what criteria is most important to the future sustainability of the parishes, over 60% of respondents felt the most important criteria to be:
- ▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Would result in the re-use of a redundant building, e.g. a disused barn
- ▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Meets an agricultural or forestry need or other farm diversification
- ▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Is necessary for the growth of a rural enterprise
- ▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Involves the replacement of an existing dwelling and is comparable in size and scale

Respondents felt that 'Provides for the needs of gypsies or travellers' was not important to the future sustainability of the parishes.

The majority (55%) of respondents felt that new homes should be built in the parishes over the next 15 years. For new homes built there was strong support, over two thirds, for homes for local people/people with local connections. As for property type, preferences were shown for the following by over half of respondents:
- ▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Living/working properties
- ▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Family homes (3 or more bedrooms)
- ▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Adapted/easy access homes: e.g. bungalows
- ▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Starter homes (2 bedrooms)

Residents were asked "If some new market housing was required in order to subsidise the cost of building affordable housing, what size of development (a mix of market housing and affordable housing), would you be prepared to support?" Responses were gathered for each of the three villages, however for each of them the preference was the same, that being for a development of two to five houses followed by a development of one house. There was opposition for developments of 'more than ten houses' and 'six to ten houses'.

'Providing off road parking' was the single most important feature for new housing with 84% citing it important, followed by over three quarters also reporting 'maintain minimum gap consistent with existing adjacent development', 'traditional forms of appearance', 'similar size and appearance to existing houses near/around it' and 'have a back garden'.

Half of the respondents were happy with either 'ribbon' or 'block development', compared to each individually getting about a quarter of respondents in favour.

In terms of extensions to existing houses, sub-division of gardens to create new houses, or conversion of outbuildings into new dwellings respondents showed the same views across each of these three issues. The majority of respondents felt that 'owners should be free to develop, subject to prevailing planning constraints'. However, respondents felt overwhelmingly that those constraints should be that 'development should not be allowed if they have a negative impact on neighbours or the character of the neighbourhood'.

Stone, wooden window frames and slate roofing tiles were the most favoured building materials for the villages. Most building materials were acceptable to at least a quarter of respondents with the exception of aluminium window frames which were not acceptable to about half of respondents.

Residents were asked if they knew of any locations where development would be constrained by any of the listed issues; 90 respondents identified issues that would constrain development in certain locations, particularly with 'poor telephone / broadband connection', flooding' and 'road access issues'.

Economy

Nearly half of all respondents felt that the Neighbourhood Plan should identify potential sites for employment use, compared to a quarter who said that it shouldn't. Better broadband and mobile phone reception were the two main issues identified by respondents as what they thought might encourage new businesses to locate in the parishes. Respondents felt 'conversion of existing buildings' and 'brownfield land' were the most appropriate types of site which should be allocated for employment use. Whereas for change of use for land currently used for farming or forestry, respondents only felt that 'conversion of existing buildings' was suitable.

Respondents thought the following forms of business development were acceptable in the countryside:
▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Craft workshops
▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Market Garden/plant nursery
▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Equine
▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Small-scale retailing
▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Tourism/leisure-related
▸▸▸▸▸▸▸ Catering

Three quarters of respondents felt that a policy around 'farm diversification' should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, and nearly half of residents thought that the Neighbourhood Plan should include the provision and development of tourism facilities. With regard to tourism, respondents wanted to see better or more provision of 'tourist information on the Parish Council website', 'better parish tourist information' and 'better signed footpaths'.

Community Facilities

Residents were asked how often they use the 'church', 'Post Office at How Caple Court' and 'public transport'. The church was used most with only 30% responding that they never use it, although a further third only use it yearly. The Post Office was the only facility respondents said they used daily, although only 2% reported this (60% said they never use it). Public transport was never used by 85% of respondents with only 4% saying they used it monthly.

In terms of what community facilities respondents wanted developed, a 'shop' and a 'parish hall' were clear favourites with two thirds of respondents supporting these. A 'recreation field' was also supported by half of respondents. A quarter of residents routinely (at least monthly or weekly) travel outside the parish for 'keep fit/gym' and 'swimming'.

Close to half of respondents reported that they *did not* find services difficult to access, by not identifying any that they did. For those that did have some difficulty, the most commonly cited services were:

- Public transport
- GP
- Local shop
- Local hospital

Infrastructure

A third of respondents reported getting 'bad or no signal' for mobile phones at home; 72% of respondents would support a community scheme to improve mobile phone reception in the Parish. Landline telephone service was felt to be adequate or good by 87% of respondents whereas this fell to 52% for broadband service and 49% for mobile phone reception.

When asked 'how strongly do you feel improvements are needed in the following areas', over two thirds of respondents felt that there should be improvements in:

- Road maintenance
- Snow clearance/winter gritting
- Verge cutting
- Footpath / bridleway maintenance

When asked to prioritise improvements to local infrastructure or amenities, residents felt that 'road maintenance e.g. potholes' was by far the most urgently in need of improvement with 86% reporting this.

When asked about the capacity of the 'A449 and B4224' and 'minor roads', for both options there were more respondents that felt that they 'have capacity to handle the current volume of traffic, but no more' compared to those that did not. Nearly 50% also felt that the 'A449 and B4229' has 'capacity to safely handle more traffic from a limited increase in single plot residential housing'.

In terms of road safety, over half of respondents felt the parish needed 'Speed Indicator Devices', to 're-route HGVs' and apply 'weight restrictions'.

Over two thirds of respondents felt that road safety was in issue at 'Crossways How Caple (off set cross road on B4224)'.

Half of respondents wanted to see the development of cycle paths in the parishes compared to 30% who did not.