



Crewkerne Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

Wool Gardens residents March 2025

You may know that Crewkerne Town Council is working with the community to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan gives us a greater say in planning decisions than a Community Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan, when adopted or “made” has legal weight in the planning system and will be used by planning applicants and decision makers to help determine the appropriateness of planning applications, alongside national policies, the adopted South Somerset District Council Local Plan and material considerations.

The Neighbourhood Plan process in Crewkerne has been underway since 2021, and a number of surveys were carried out in the early part. As Wool Gardens residents now represent a sizeable addition to our community, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is keen to gather your views to ensure that they are also represented in the Plan.

The Plan has to follow rules set by the Government and focus on land-use planning matters. This gives us some opportunities to deliver things we would like to see and to protect some of our key assets and the environment. However, it does not give us a charter to stop all development or change national planning rules or district council policies and proposals set out in the adopted Local Plan (see <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-plan-and-strategies/planning-policy/local-plan/>). For further information on Neighbourhood Plans, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>. There is also a useful short video about Neighbourhood Plans here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvAHhrKNVt0>. For further information about the Crewkerne Neighbourhood Plan, please go to <https://crewkerneneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/>

It is important to note that this questionnaire aims to gather information about planning issues in the town. In turn these will help us to write the Plan and its planning policies which will be used by the local authority when it determines planning applications.

Neither the Town Council, nor a Neighbourhood Plan, can guarantee that the aspirations, projects or ideas identified by your response to this questionnaire will be delivered. We can, however, set out planning policies and community actions in the Plan which support such suggestions, if there is a consensus of community opinion and other evidence behind them, and their delivery is viable, affordable and within planning rules. It may take a number of organisations and agencies, and the private sector, to work together to deliver improvements and change in the town.

Please help us at this important stage by completing this questionnaire by 11th April 2025.

If you need more space for comments, please use an additional sheet. Additional paper copies of this questionnaire can be requested from the Town Council on 01460 74001 and towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk. Completed paper questionnaires can be dropped into the Local Information Centre in the Town Hall. Alternatively, they can be posted to Crewkerne Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, TA18 7LN.

Questionnaire

The Community Plan (2016)

1. The Community Plan developed for Crewkerne in 2016 identified a series of objectives. For each of these (listed below) are they still an appropriate objective for the town to pursue?

- To support and enhance Crewkerne's strong community spirit

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

- A buzzy town centre with something for everyone

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

- Improved access for all with appropriate transport solutions

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

- Stronger partnership working between businesses and local authority

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

- A safe, clean, green and attractive environment

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

2. If you have suggested that they are no longer appropriate, how should they be updated (and should there be any additional objectives)?

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Strong Community

This topic includes questions about likes and dislikes, housing, community facilities, sports and civic (green) spaces.

Likes and Dislikes

3. What are the 3 things that you **value the most** about living and / or working in Crewkerne?

1.

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2.

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3.

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4. What are the 3 things that you **value the least** about living and / or working in Crewkerne?

1.

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2.

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3.

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Housing

The current adopted Local Plan for South Somerset sets out the number of houses which Crewkerne is expected to see developed. When the Local Plan was adopted this was for a minimum of 961 dwellings in the plan period to the year 2028, with 916 already planned for (committed). In October 2022, Crewkerne had seen 1,222 delivered or committed, beyond the 961 minimum. We can, if we wish, in the Neighbourhood Plan, suggest that a higher number of houses is built, but this is not compulsory.

5. Are there specific local housing shortages that need addressing?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

6. If you think that there are, what should be done to help meet local housing shortages?

7. Should areas of land be allocated in our Neighbourhood Plan for more housing than currently committed and delivered through the Local Plan process?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

8. If you think additional housing is needed, where should it be located?

Previously developed (brownfield) land ☐ Greenfield land ☐ Infill in the town ☐ Other ☐ Don't Know ☐

9. If you stated "Other", please state here.

Community facilities, sports and civic (green) spaces

10. Are you satisfied with the range and quality of community facilities in the town?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

11. If not, what community facilities need providing, replacing or improving?

12. Are you satisfied with the level of current health/welfare provision?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

13. If not, what additional health/welfare services should be provided locally?

14. Is there a need for more children's and / or youth facilities in the town?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

15. If there is, what additional children's and / or youth facilities would you like to see provided?

16. Do you think there is a need for more sports and recreational opportunities?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

17. If there is, what other recreation and sports facilities should be provided locally?

18. Should local green spaces such as parks, playing pitches and spaces be protected?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

19. If so, what local green spaces used by the community should be protected?

Vibrant town centre

20. Are you satisfied with the town centre?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

21. If not, what can be done to make the town centre better?

22. Should shops in the town centre be protected from change of use to other non-retail uses?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

23. If not (or they cannot be protected from change of use) what other uses would be acceptable?

24. Which shops, food and drink outlets and other town centre businesses and services do you use the most? Please limit to five choices at the most.

Thriving Local Economy

25. Are more local employment opportunities needed in the town?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

26. What additional types and sizes of business or employment spaces and / or facilities do you think are necessary in the town?

Easy Access to Get About

27. Should there be additional pedestrian and cycling routes in the town?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

28. What method of transportation do you use to access the town centre from Wool Gardens?

Walk ☐ Cycle ☐ Car ☐

Other (please specify)

29. Where do cycle and pedestrian routes need to be improved or extended, or additional new routes provided?

30. Are you satisfied with public transport services and facilities?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

31. What aspects of local public transport provision need improving?

32. Are there major parking issues in the town that need to be addressed?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

33. If so, what parking issues in what locations need to be resolved?

34. Are there other transport, access and connectivity issues in the town that are important?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

35. If so, what are these issues?

Local Environment

Natural environment

36. Are you concerned about the impact of the changing climate on the town?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

37. If so, what do you think can be done about that locally?

38. Should greenspaces, woodland, wetland and other habitats for wildlife be protected?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

39. If so, which areas, in particular should be protected?

Built environment

40. Is adequate care being taken of the town's historic buildings, civic spaces and character?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

41. If not, do any buildings and civic spaces in the town need protecting better or enhancing? Please name them.

Additional comments

42. Are there any other related matters not already covered, that you wish to raise?

About Yourself

Please tell us a little more about yourself. If provided, the information provided below will not be used for any other purpose than analysis.

Your Age Group:

Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-44 ☐ 45-64 ☐ 65-79 ☐ 80+ ☐

Your postcode (main residence):

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, your views are appreciated.