

Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan

Economic Development

Reference: ED 1

Report on the experience of Local Businesses based in the Parish but not primarily serving the needs of parishioners, including those working from home.

This report was compiled in January 2018 following an approach by letter to sixty businesses operating within the parish (as identified using local directories). Its aim was to assess the experience of those working from home or operating a small business within the parish, but not necessarily serving parishioners.

Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan

Report: January 2018

Experience of Local Businesses based in the Parish but not primarily serving the needs of parishioners, including those working from home.

Introduction

Following on from the survey of businesses that served parishioners' needs, it was felt that there we should approach businesses based in the parish, or those working from home, to gain an understanding of what it was like to run a business in the area or to work from home.

The parish only has two designated commercial areas: Church View off Dragon Lane and the Woodyard on Bagworth Road (B585). There are other places (Wrask Farm and at Brascote) where several businesses operate.

Actions

Using local trade directories, we identified sixty business addresses within the parish. These were often self-employed individuals but there were several businesses employing more than one person. A questionnaire was devised (see attached), together with a supporting letter, and delivered to each of these addresses.

Return numbers were disappointing with only nine respondents from the sixty. This was partly due to businesses no longer operating from those addresses - six that we know of - but we cannot account for why others did not reply.

Lines of Work

Medical/Health related	1	Professional, scientific, technical	1
Services	3	Tourism	1
Transport	1	Building and Allied Trade	2
Local Government	1		

(One person listed two occupations)

Numbers Employed

Whilst the majority (6) of people were working independently, one business employed up to five, another up to ten and a third up to twenty.

Made Concerns about working in the Parish

There were few concerns related to utilities and, understandably, because people were working from home, few issues with parking or public transport. The main issue was internet speed and reliability, followed closely by mobile reception. Six of the nine respondents identified occasional (3) or often (3) problems with internet speeds and reliability. Four respondents often had issues with mobile reception.

Satisfaction with working within the Parish

No-one regarded their experience as poor or worse, two felt it was average and the rest regarded it as very good (4) or excellent (3). Those scoring it average cited mobile and internet issues.

Possible Developments in the Parish

Respondents were asked if they would welcome the following:

- Shared Office Space
- Service shared office space
- Small business Units

Just one respondent replied, requesting business units. Another suggested some form of shared meeting space for businesses.

Conclusion

The limited number of respondents means conclusions drawn from this survey can only be tentative and provisional. However, if the 'Customer Facing Survey' is considered alongside these results, it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

- The parish is conducive to small businesses – people like working in the parish
- The main obstacles are mobile reception and internet connection
- There may be some benefits to looking toward planned business unit developments (this is occurring at present on an ad hoc basis).

Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan

Local Businesses and Home Working Questionnaire

This questionnaire is design to gather information from all who run businesses or work part or full time from home within the parish boundary of Newbold Verdon. The information and views gathered will help contribute toward the writing of a legally binding document called a Neighbourhood Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan provides for small local communities the opportunity to influence local government planning policy. It means the parish will have a say in such aspects of planning as housing and commercial development, the preservation of our heritage, improvements in the environment and the creation of a safe place in which to live.

As someone who works from home or runs a business within our parish we are very keen on hearing your views of what it is like doing just that.

Please return it to The Strand Hairdresser's on Main Street before 22nd December or bring it along to our drop-in session being held at Alans Way Pavilion, 7p.m. on Thursday 21st December where you share any further views with us on running a business or working from home in the parish of Newbold Verdon.

What is your name?

What is the name of your company ? (if applicable)

What is your address?

If you run a business how many staff do you employ?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 5 employees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 employees | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 20 employees |

If you work from home is it:

- Every day Most days Occasionally

Which of the following categories best describes your business or the general area of your line of work. Please tick.

- Retail outlets, shop etc.
- Agriculture, farming & fisheries
- Leisure related
- Manufacturing
- Medical & health related
- Service Industries
- Real Estate Services Transport, storage and distribution
- Professional, scientific & technical
- Tourism
- Crafts
- Building and Allied Trade

In just a few words, could you provide a very brief description of the service or product your business (line of work) provides.

Can you please comment on how your business or when working from home is affected by the following issues.

	Rarely a problem	Occasional Issue	Often a problem
Electricity supply			
Water supply/pressure			
Drainage or sewage			
Gas supply			
Mobile reception			
Internet speed and reliability			
Parking space for employees			
Public transport for employees			
Parking for customers			
Ease of travel for customers into the village			
A.N.Other			

Please explain further any issues above that you have rated 'often' or 'sometimes' a problem, and advise on how you believe the problem(s) might be resolved.

How would you rate Newbold Verdon as a place to operate a business or work from home?

Very Poor

Poor

Average

Very Good

Excellent Can

you give reasons for you choice of rating.

If working from home, would you welcome any of the following in the parish:

A shared office space:

Service shared office space:

Small business units:

Any other suggestion:

Are there any additional services that you would like to see made available in the parish, for example: shared office space, commercial business units?