

HIGHAM FERRERS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

'Preserving our Past and Enhancing our Future'

LATEST SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!

At a drop-in-day on 30th September, residents were invited to tell the Steering Group what they think of the proposed Vision, Objectives and Growth Options for Higham Ferrers. A questionnaire, with a chance of a prize for every form returned, was circulated to all households and businesses in the town.

We are very pleased with the response rate, so a big 'thank you' is due to everyone who returned questionnaires. In summary, the answers you gave were:

Do you agree with the proposed:-	Agree or strongly agree %	No preference %	Disagree or strongly disagree %
Vision and Objectives	68	22	10
Growth Option 1	32	35	43
Growth Option 2	32	30	38
Growth Option 2a	36	38	26
Growth Option 3	33	29	38

There is a narrow preference for growth option 2a, tempered, however, by the highest number of no preference/ uncertain votes of all the options presented. Many people submitted comments on the proposals which will be taken into account in the preparation of the plan.



On 12th December The Mayor, Councillor Alan Dunn, presented cheques to questionnaire draw winners (l to r) Alan Fokerd £50, Ed Dutton £30 and Sue Lines £20. Steering Group Chairman Nigel Cheetham (c) looks on.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Having sought your views, the Steering Group, with our consultant James Wilson of James Wilson Associates, has now started work on evaluating the preferred growth option and identifying the sustainable proposals for the town's future prosperity, which is what the Neighbourhood Plan is all about. To stand the best chance of getting our plan adopted, each proposal has to be tested against criteria set by the Government and other statutory authorities and thus involves a lot of research and cross checking by the Steering Group project teams. We will also talk further in the coming weeks with community stakeholders. There will be more about the work of the group in a future issue.

We aim to consult with all residents again in late spring when the draft plan is available.