

Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan Issues & Options Consultation (1) Results Summary for DISS



Introduction

This is a four page summary which can be read alongside the longer more detailed report, available on the parish page for Diss, www.ddnp.info/diss. It gives an overview of results for the first of two Issues and Options Consultations, which ran across all parishes involved in the Neighbourhood Plan from mid-July to mid-August 2020. This consultation is one element of the evidence and assessment work which will help determine the final policies and site allocations. All of the evidence compiled to support the Neighbourhood Plan will be made publicly available on the website – www.ddnp.info

A total of 961 people took part across the DDNP area, with 318 taking part for Diss.

Methodology

Respondents were asked to agree/disagree the extent to which the following list of local green spaces, important views and non-designated heritage assets were important to them. A benchmark of 80% agree/strongly agree has been applied to the data received. Those which didn't meet that 80% agreement benchmark are shown in italics. The numbers in brackets, where shown, indicate how many comments in support of each were received. Suggestions for additional local green spaces and important views were also invited and are currently being considered for further consultation.

Local Green Space:

13 of the 24 local green spaces put forward as being important reached the 80% agreement benchmark. Those that didn't reach this benchmark are shown in italics.

DIS1: Diss Cemetery (4); DIS2: Fair Green (8); DIS3: Diss Park including the Mere (6); DIS4: Banks of the Mere (2); DIS5: Parish Fields (21); DIS7: Rectory Meadows (3); DIS8: Frenze Beck (7); DIS9: Frenze Pond (3); *DIS13 Diss & District Bowling Green; DIS14 Diss Causeway Bowling Green; DIS16: Pursehouse Way Greenspace; DIS17: Wilbye Avenue Greenspace; DIS18: St Mary's Churchyard (1); DIS20: Denmark Lane Greenspace; DIS21: Stanley Road Greenspace; DIS22: Scholar's Walk Greenspace; DIS23 Bramley Close Greenspace; DIS24: De Lucy Close Greenspace; DIS25: Long Meadow Drive Greenspace; DIS26: Desira Wood; DIS27: Dennyholme Greenspace; DIS28: Ensign Way Greenspace; DIS36: Diss High School Playing Fields, Walcot Road (2); DIS37: Walcot Hall Meadow (2)*

Important Views:

All eight views put forward as being important reached the 80% agreement benchmark

D1 View across Fair Green; D3: View west from Mere St; D4 View from Mount St (1); D5: View north from the public footpath (2); D6: view from the entrance to Diss Park; D7: View of the Mere; D9; View of St Mary's church D10 View of the Waveney Valley from Croft Lane

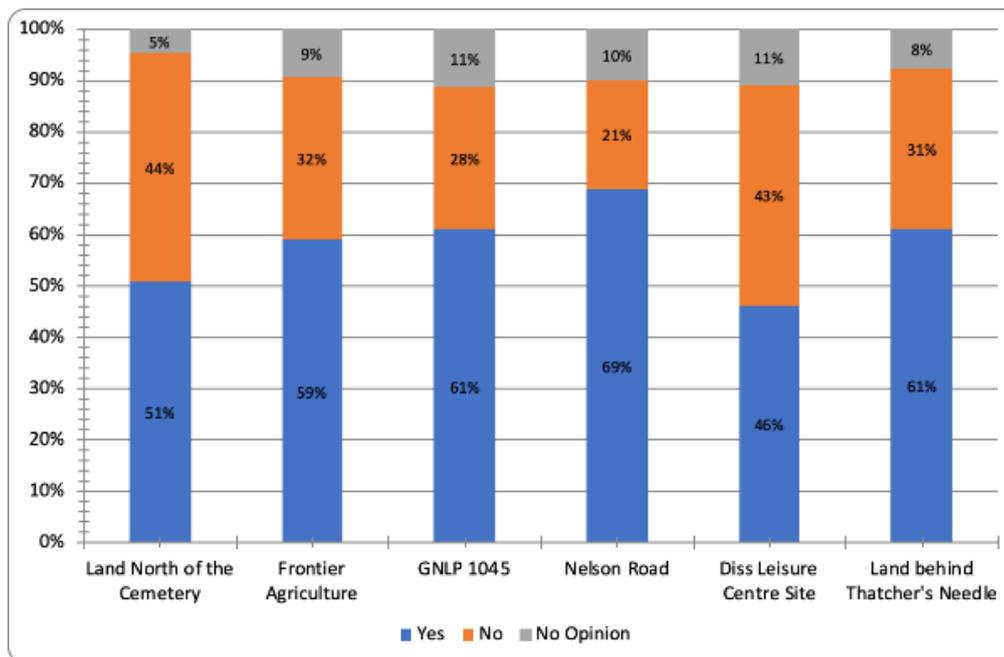
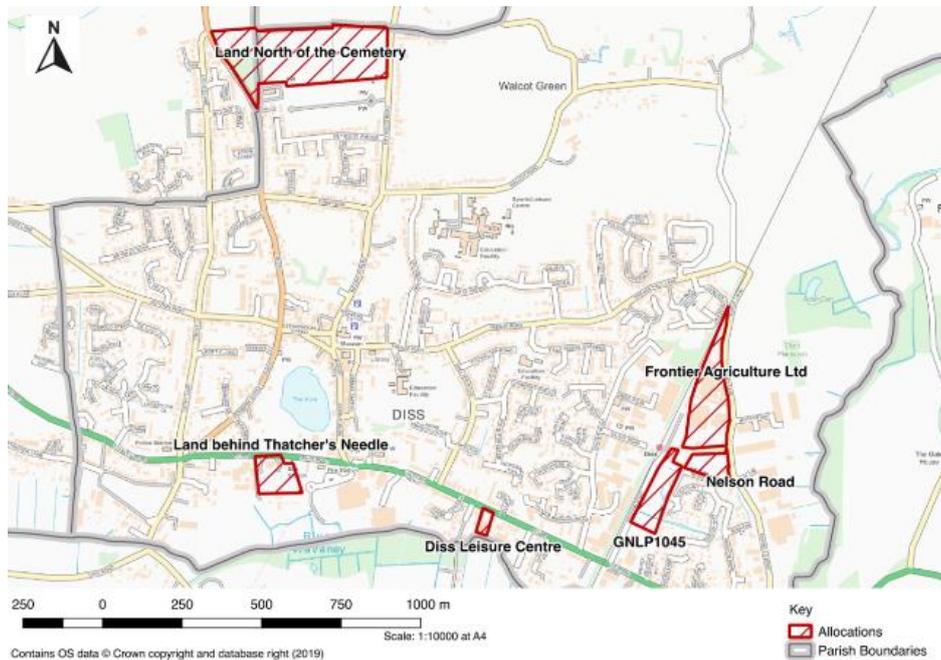
Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHAs):

Six of the 16 NDHAs put forward as being important reached the 80% agreement benchmark. Those that didn't are shown in italics.

A. *Medieval pond corner of Victoria and Skelton Roads*; B. The Old Windmill; C. *Post medieval brickworks, Bett's brickworks, Station Road*; D. Walcot Hall Medieval moat and fishpond, Walcot Road; E. *World War Two pillbox*; F. *Post medieval smoke house*; G. Fair Green stone commemorative pillar; H. The Lawn/Parish Fields; I. *Mediaeval moat (earthworks) surrounding Algar's Farm, Walcot*; J. *The Old Cherry Tree, 8 Roydon Road*; K. *127 to 133 Victoria Road*; L. *9 Mere Street (10, 11 & 12 listed)*; M. *World War Two Air Raid shelter, Heywood Road*; N. *Old Police Station, 8-11 Roydon Road*; O. River Waveney landscape elements; P. The Clynt. Open banks of the Mere, north, west and south-west.

Housing Growth/*alternative sites:

The following six sites were put forward for Diss in the survey.



Key headlines:

- For each site the number of respondents in favour of allocating was higher than those against it
- Over 50% of respondents supported allocation of the Frontier Agriculture site, GNL P 1045, Nelson Road, Land North of the Cemetery and Land behind Thatcher's Needle
- The only site to receive less than 50% of respondents supporting it was the Leisure Centre Site.

* A number of other sites were suggested during the consultation and are currently being assessed. Those that are considered potentially suitable for housing development will be consulted on again within the community.

Walking and Cycling:

The priorities for walking and cycling in Diss were ranked as:

Priority	Improvement	Weighted priority
1	New crossing point to improve access to the Railway Station at Vince's Road	1141
2	Improve the track from the railway bridge that runs past Frenze Hall and comes out at Diss Business Centre, to make it suitable for cyclists	1044
3	Continuation of the existing shared-use cycleway from Diss Leisure Centre to connect with the pedestrian crossing opposite Diss Methodist Church	928
4	Improved route from the junction of Skelton Road and Frenze Road, connecting with the A1066	835
5	Explore options for opening up the route to cyclists from Mere's Mouth, along Madgetts Walk and through the Park, to Denmark Street	707
6	Improvements to wayfinding, general signage and cycle parking in Diss Town Centre	699
7	Create a new walking/cycling network linking to existing paths at Walcot Green	634
8	New cycle parking and signage at the Railway Station	589
9	Extend the shared-use cycleway from Sawmills Road to the A1066	516
10	New on or off route cycle lane at the beginning of the junction with The Entry to Walcot Rise	474
11	Extend the shared-use cycleway past Prince William Way until the junction of Frenze Hall Lane and Walcot Green	396
12	New signage and advisory cycle route along Station Road to improve access to the Railway Station	388
13	Widening the existing footpath and wayfinding signs at Field House Gardens	339

Diss Town Centre/Leisure Centre

Should the town centre be made more pedestrian friendly? **58% agree**

Diss Leisure centre – top three factors when selecting a new site

1. 77% Good access for people wanting to walk/cycle
2. 75% a brownfield or previously undeveloped site
3. 72% Avoid land protected for nature conservation

What policies did respondents agree should be included in the DDNP?

- Strong guidance on **Housing Mix** as part of any future development: **81% agree**
- Ensuring **density** of new developments reflects the character of the surrounding area: **94% agree**
- The cascade used by South Norfolk Council for **affordable housing** should include mid-Suffolk parishes: **57%**
- That larger developments should set aside some plots for **self-builders**: **57% agree**
- A requirement for development to reflect the **Design Codes** for the area to reflect local identity and styles: **86% agree** (Design Codes for the area can be viewed at www.ddnp.info/documents)
- Protecting **dark skies** by limiting light pollution in certain areas: **89% agree**
- A requirement of developers to **improve areas for wildlife**, including creating new areas: **94% agree**

Traffic:

- Should the proposed allocation north of the cemetery in Diss provide a new road linking Shelfanger Road with Heywood Road? **62% agree**
- A requirement that any major development likely to impact **congestion on A1066** should assess and address the impact? **90% agree**
- Any development should provide measures to better manage **traffic speeds** through the villages in the Neighbourhood Plan: **91% agree**
- Diss Town Centre: Should the Plan have policies should support retail, enhance the town centre and make good use of empty shops? **93% agree**
- Should the Neighbourhood plan support the installation of new **broadband infrastructure**? **87% agree.**

Thank you to everyone who helped to promote the survey in Diss, and to those who took part. Your input is very much appreciated.

**The DDNP Steering Group
November 2020**