Highworth Neighbourhood Development Plan Review 2022 – 2027

Highworth Workshop 5 – Treasured Landscapes and Valued Open Spaces: Summary of findings

Highworth Town Council held a drop-in Workshop on Treasured Landscapes and Valued Open Spaces in and around Highworth. The Workshop was held in the Council Offices on Saturday 21st May 2022.

Due to the need for detailed maps, the workshop could not be uploaded, as an online survey, instead Councillors were available every Saturday in the Market Place, from 28th May until the 23rdJuly 2022, to encourage the community to participate in the paper-based survey and paper copies were available from various outlets in the town.

The survey findings are set out in a separate report. This section summarises the main findings of the survey. 55 people either attended the drop-in workshop or completed the survey.

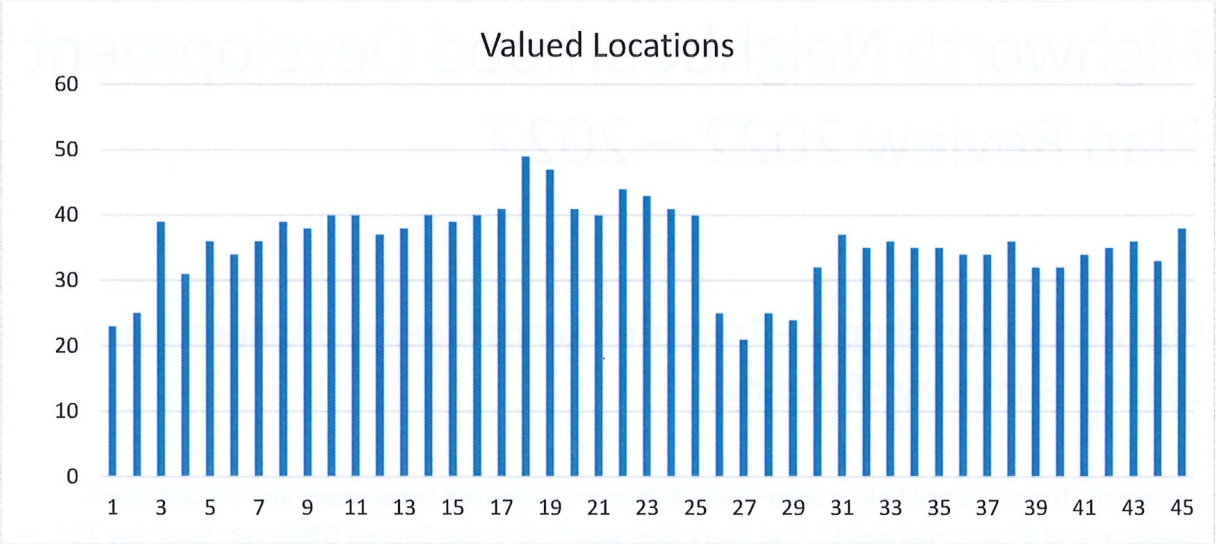
Residents were asked to consider what Landscapes (views) they treasured in and around Highworth. The criteria required the views to be visible from a location that the Public had legal access to, i.e., a footpath, highway, or space open to the public without charge, views from houses, gardens or other locations that were privately owned, were excluded.

As a precursor and to endeavour to produce a basis to carry out the consultation, a mini workshop was convened this was attended by members of the Highworth and Swindon Ramblers Association and several artists and photographers. From this, 45 viewpoints were identified, and these locations were transferred to a master Ordnance Survey map. Photographs of views were obtained from this group which formed part of the public consultation.

Treasured Landscapes

Those who participated in the survey were asked if any of the locations on the master plan (45 sites) were valued below summaries the response.[1]

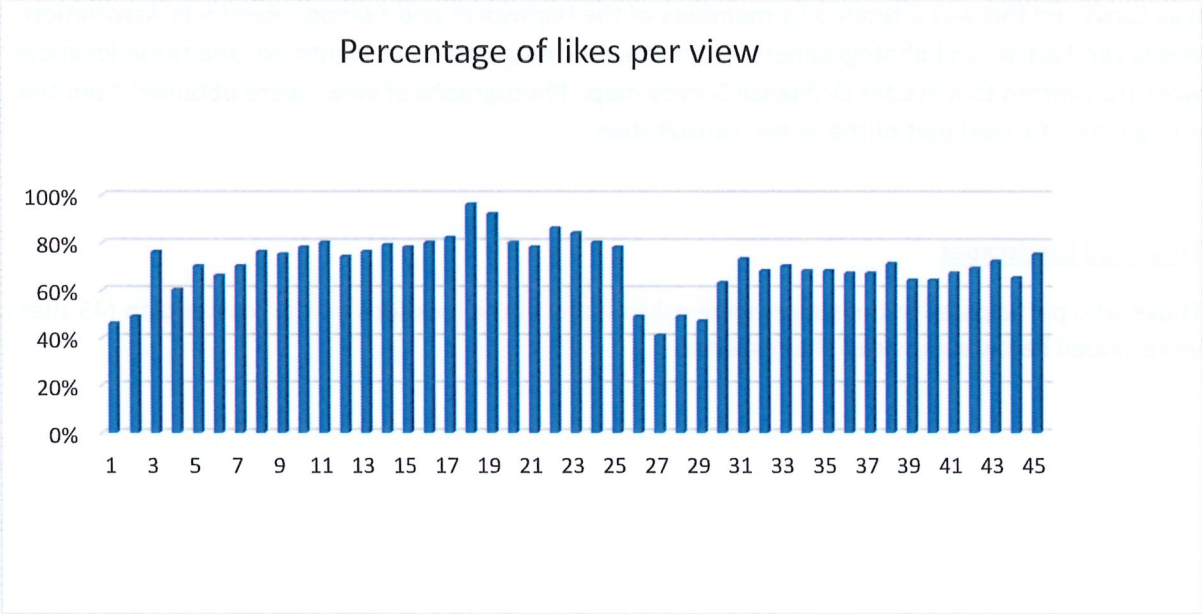
[1] Response to Q1



The majority of people surveyed were of the opinion that the views south from the top of the Old Golf Course towards the Downs were the most treasured (numbered 18 and 19).

The most popular views were[2]:

- Views from the top of the Old Golf Course towards the Downs.
- Views towards Hannington from the footpath leading from the Cricklade road cemetery.
- Views from the footpath / stile opposite Hampton towards Highworth.
- Views from the footpath Leading towards Reddown looking back towards Highworth.



[2] In response to Q2

Whilst in percentage terms the following results are negligible, they do identify some views that are worthy of being cherished.

19 additional locations were identified[3]

- 4 returns were of the View looking towards Hannington and the North West from Locations close to St Michaels Avenue
- 2 were from the A361 Reddown Hill towards Highworth
- The view from the end of Park Avenue by the brewery street cat park towards Coleshill
- The view from the Park Avenue Allotments towards the Downs and the Ridgeway

Valued Open Spaces

Participants were asked to give their opinion on whether or not they valued a number of open spaces within Highworth.

The areas Included are parks, village greens, green space, areas used for play & recreation and open areas valued by the community.

These were grouped into recreational areas.

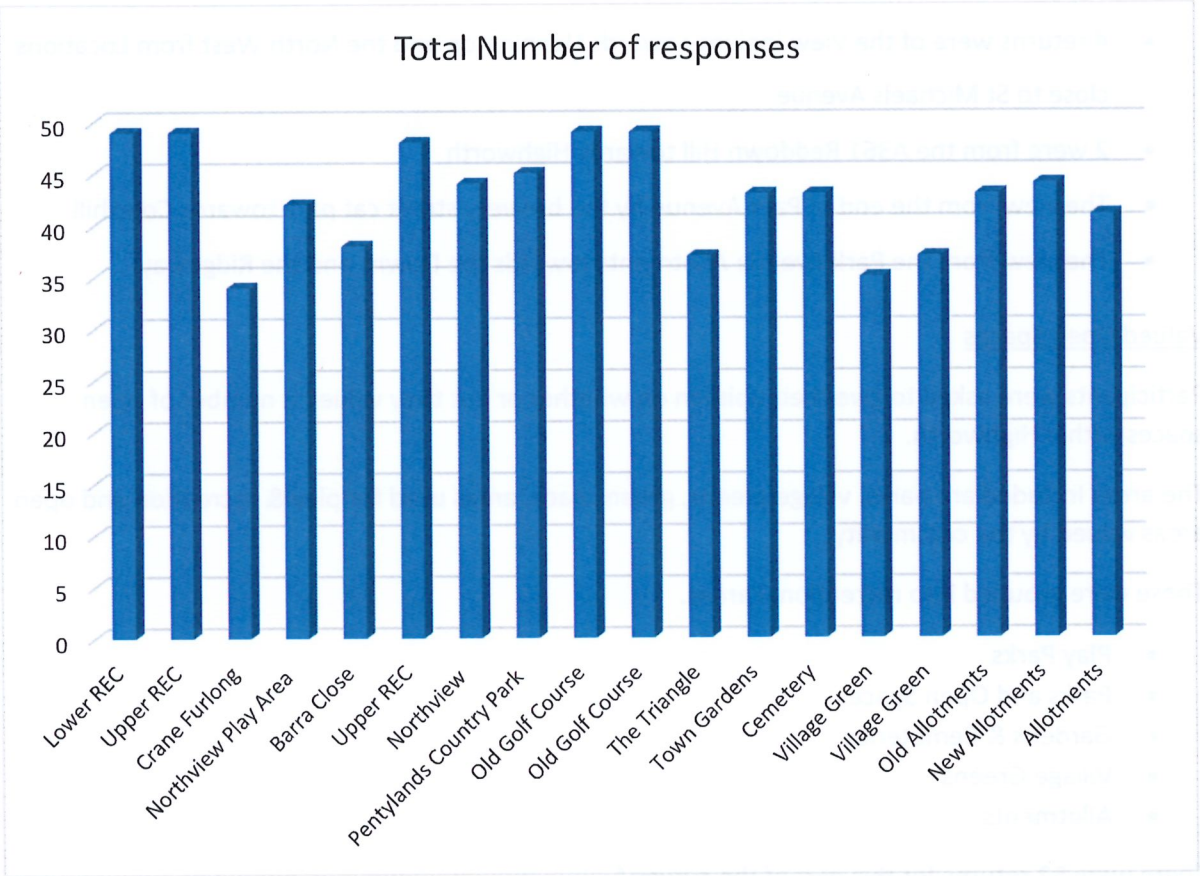
- Play Parks
- Parks and Open Spaces,
- Gardens & Cemeteries
- Village Greens
- Allotments

There were 52 returns for this part of the survey.[4]

a)	Lower Rec	91%	49
b)	Upper Rec	91%	49
c)	Crane Furlong	63%	34
d)	Northview	78%	42
e)	Barra Close Play Area	70%	38
f)	Upper Rec play Area	89%	48
g)	Northview Play Area	81%	44
h)	Pentylands Country Park	83%	45
i)	Old Golf Course	91%	49
j)	Old Golf Course Triangle (entrance to Lower REC)	91%	49
k)	The Triangle	67%	37
l)	Town Gardens	80%	43
m)	Cemetery (Cricklade Road)	80%	43
n)	Village Green (Junction Windrush /St, Michaels Ave)	65%	35
o)	Village Green (St, Michaels Ave)	69%	37

[3] Response to Q3.
[4] Response to Q1 part 2

p)	Old Allotments adjacent to Lower Rec	80%	43
q)	Allotments Lower Rec	81%	44
r)	Allotments Park Avenue	76%	41



It can be concluded that the Upper and Lower Rec, the Old Golf course and associated land is strongly valued by the community, whilst less value is placed on Crane Furlong and the Triangle.

However, with the lowest percentage area, Crane Furlong with 63% shows that a substantial majority of the respondents feel this should be retained. The lowest percentage 63%, 34 people said (C) Crane Furlong should be retained.

91% of those surveyed said the following sites should be retained A, B, I & J.