

# Semington Neighbourhood Planning

## CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY RESPONSES



We asked how concerned you are about climate change and the response was overwhelming.

Of the 60 people who completed our survey, more than 90 per cent said they were concerned about climate change, including 30 per cent who are very concerned.

Wildfires, droughts, extreme temperatures and flooding are the effects which most worry people in Semington. Heat stress on humans, animals and crops are also widely anticipated.

More than three-quarters of our respondents want a community response, with only 3 per cent opposed to the idea.

An impressive 68 per cent would now support wind turbines in Semington, while 82 per cent would back a solar farm. Support would be even greater (92 per cent) if there was a financial benefit to the community.

### EXISTING HOUSING

The survey shows that most homes in Semington are reasonably well insulated. But there is a significant number of older properties, including listed buildings, which are hard to keep warm and where adequate insulation is difficult. The take-up of modern energy-saving technology is low.

Three-quarters of respondents find it reasonably easy to keep their homes comfortably warm in winter. But 20 per cent say it is difficult and 3 per cent find it impossible. Old, poorly insulated properties and increasingly expensive electric or oil heating are most often mentioned as reasons for difficulty.

88 per cent of respondents have double or triple glazing, 85 per cent have loft insulation and 75 per cent have wall insulation. But only 18 per cent have solar panels for electricity, and only 8 per cent for hot water. Battery storage and ground or air source heat pumps are reported by 7 per cent, while only 5 per cent have a biomass boiler.

55 per cent would consider installing solar electric panels, while 48 per cent would consider solar battery storage and solar hot water panels. 30 per cent would be interested in ground/air source heat pumps, but there is markedly less enthusiasm for biomass boilers (12 per cent). 52 per cent would consider an electric vehicle charging point.

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

There is widespread support for eco-friendly design and features for all future housing development in Semington.

82 per cent say green spaces and trees are essential. 78 per cent say the same for efficient, low carbon, heating and cooling, and 71 per cent for solar electric panels. 63 per cent rate sustainable materials and construction methods as essential. 57 per cent believe electric charging points for cars are a vital requirement. While only 47 per cent think battery storage is essential, another 35 per cent rate it as important. Only 17 per cent think planted roofs and walls are essential, but another 33 per cent consider them important.

## **GETTING AROUND**

Unsurprisingly, the car is the dominant form of transport for work (55 per cent of respondents) and shopping (88 per cent). But walking is the most popular for leisure (87 per cent). 38 per cent cycle for leisure, but only 8 per cent for work and 12 per cent for shopping. 12 per cent use an electric bike for leisure and 5 per cent for shopping.

There is relatively little use of public transport. Buses are used by 7 per cent of respondents for work, 15 per cent for shopping and 13 per cent for leisure.

Only 8 per cent of respondents have an electric car, but 15 per cent say they have a charging point. 68 per cent believe that Semington should have charging points for community use. The village hall is the location most often suggested, with the pub also a popular choice.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

A number of respondents suggested other ways of responding to climate change, including:

Grey water collection systems for new homes.

Campus heating – a group of homes served by a communal ground source heat pump.

Pandemic-style arrangements to look after vulnerable people and families.

Easing of restrictions on listed buildings to allow double glazing and solar panels.

Better community facilities, including shop and activities for children, to cut down on car use. Turn street lights off at 11pm.

Incentivise owners to sell land for solar farms rather than housing. Bulk discount scheme for people to install heat pumps, solar panels etc.

Village recycling point for non-standard items.

Methane-powered power generation, using waste organic matter produced locally.