

A Plan for Iver Heath

Iver Heath Residents' Association

June 2019

A submission to Iver Parish Council and South Bucks District Council as a contribution to the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan Consultation Process.

This document describes the activities carried out by the Iver Heath Residents' Association in gathering and analysing the views of residents concerning a future vision for their village.



Cover image: Iver Heath Fields (May 2019)

Iver Heath Residents' Association
8 Pinewood Green, Iver Heath, Bucks SL0 0QP
Tel: 07572 125960
Email: ihrasecretary1@gmail.com

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1. Introduction



As a fully constituted Residents' Association, we felt it was our brief to devote time and effort in seeking as many views of Iver Heath residents as possible to support the Iver Parish Council (IPC) in devising their Neighbourhood Plan. In 2018, Iver Heath Residents' Association (IHRA) Committee members attended 3 consultations held by IPC. At the first consultation we were asked to provide IPC with "what we wanted for Iver Heath". At the second consultation, which focused entirely on the development of option 12, we provided relevant feedback. We also responded to South Bucks District Council's (SBDC) call for sites in 2018 and 2019.

IHRA held **six** meetings attended by more than **100** people to gather feedback on residents' vision for the future of Iver Heath.

This report describes the analysis of these views and the resulting priorities for the village.

Alan Wilson

Alan Wilson

Chair, Iver Heath Residents' Association

2. Feedback methodology

The six meetings, which took place between late 2018 and Spring 2019, covered a range of Iver Heath residents and included an 'open' meeting. At our meetings we explained the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan and the planning process and asked for feedback and comments on:

- What is valued most in Iver Heath now and should be protected?
- What should be improved or enhanced?
- What additional facilities do we need?

These meetings were well received; those who attended found them useful and informative. Attendees were asked to note down comments so that those who may be reluctant to speak publicly had an equal chance to express their views freely; people were more than willing to make comments. The IHRA also received email feedback and this has been included in the analysis.

We sought views from a wide range of residents including mature people, parents from our schools, IHRA members and non-members. Therefore, we feel that the feedback is as representative as possible of the Iver Heath demographics.

We received **235** items of feedback. **Each** verbatim comment was taken on board, entered into spreadsheets, categorised and then analysed.

See appendix for more information.

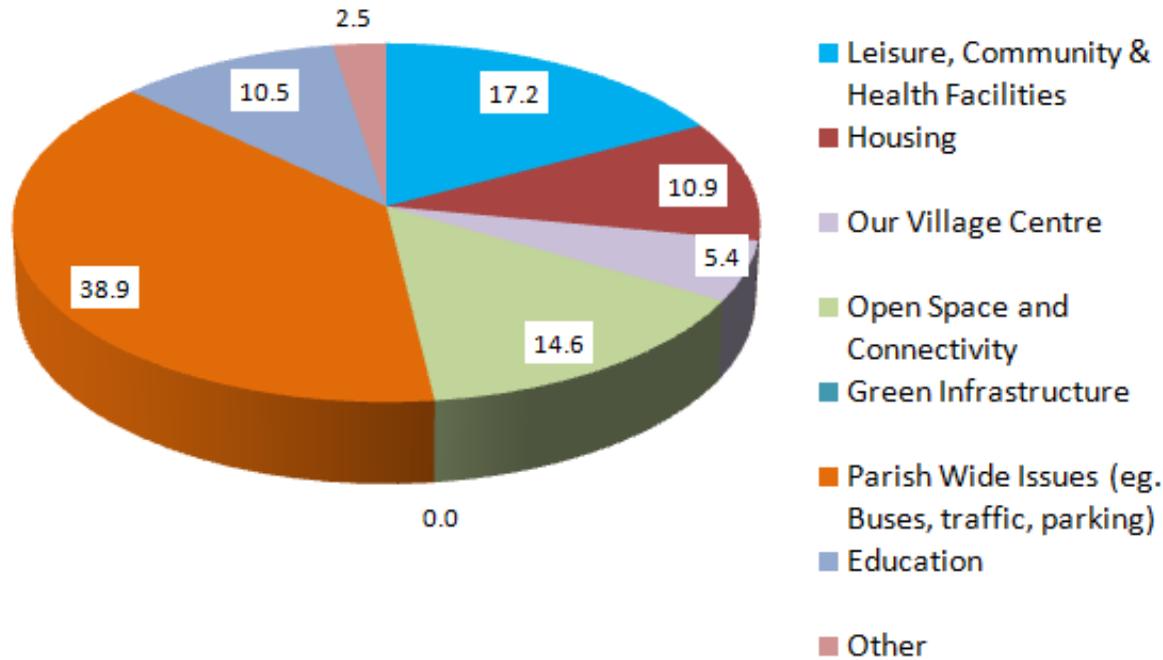
3. Analysis of responses



Responses were placed into the following main categories: Open spaces and connectivity; Our Village Centre; Housing; Leisure, Community & Health facilities; Education and Parish wide issues.

a. Summary of all comments

(percentage of total comments by category)

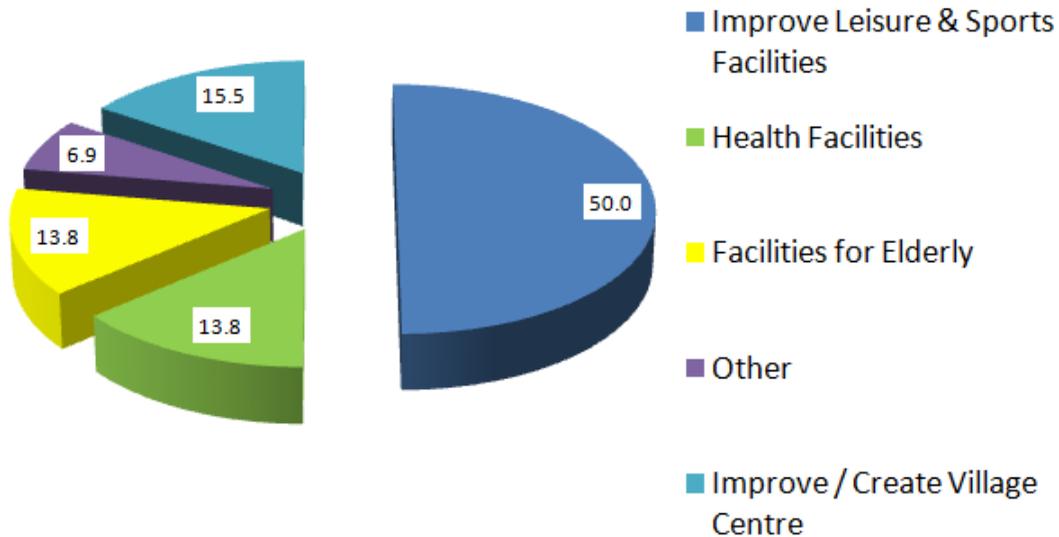


Improving a range of facilities and our environment together with Parish wide issues represented three quarters of all responses.

Housing and Education are also significant at 11% each.

These items together represent **97%** of comments.

b. Improve and create facilities (percentage of total comments in category)



LEISURE, SPORTS AND HEALTH FACILITIES

People want to see improved facilities for leisure, sports and health. Comments included cost effective activities for the young and the elderly, more sports for the young and facilities for residents with dementia and their carers. With the closure of Mead House there is a lack of a 'drop in' for the elderly.

With regard to medical facilities, comments were made to the effect that more use could be made of the existing Trewarden Medical Centre to extend the range of community health services available at the heart of the village.

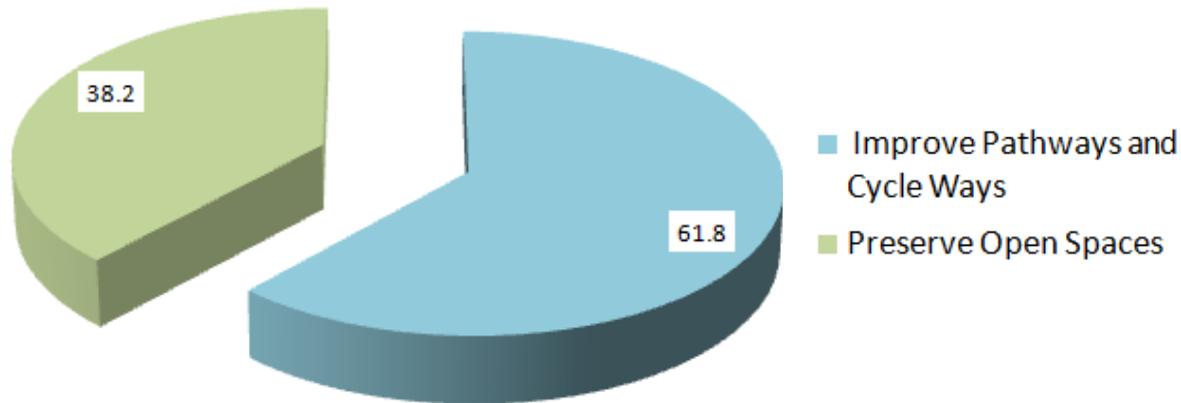
VILLAGE CENTRE

People want to see an improved Village Centre by creating new and expanding existing facilities around the Village Hall - Library area as a focal point of the village.

With the closure of Evreham some activities from there could be moved to this new centre.

Also mentioned was improvement to the recreation ground and pavilion, providing better facilities for youth activities, a drop in for the elderly and a community cafe.

c. Open spaces and connectivity (percentage of total comments in category)



OPEN SPACES

Strong views were expressed to protect and enhance existing green spaces and to ensure that any new development includes green space. It is recognised that green spaces contribute to general well being of residents and the ambiance of the village.

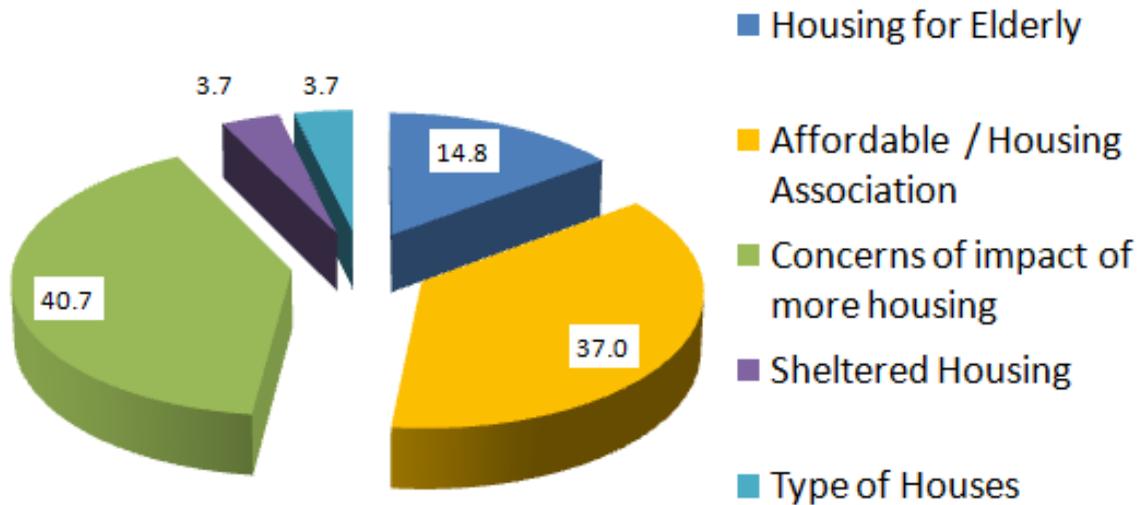
CONNECTIVITY

Improvement to footpaths by better maintenance including simple measures such as cutting back plant growth and improving lighting was mentioned. Such measures, together with other enhancements, would improve connectivity within the village for cyclists and pedestrians.

Some parts of the roads in Iver Heath are regarded as unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists. **Therefore, there is a wish to create new footpaths and cycle ways.** Suggestions included creating a footpath/cycleway to safely cross to the Crooked Billet and on to the Country Parks. **There was a also demand to create a cycle way** to Cross Rail.

d. Housing

(percentage of total comments in category)



By far the majority of comments on housing were for any new builds to be affordable or Housing Association properties as well as housing for the elderly.

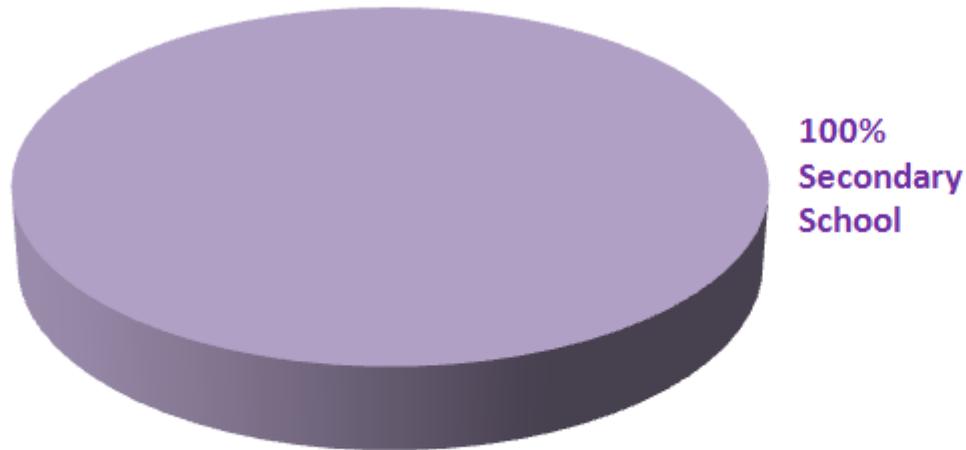
Closure of Mead House and the lack of care facilities for the elderly or those with dementia was a concern.

There is a desire for houses for “our children and key workers”.

Some comments also expressed concerns about the consequences of further development: would our road infrastructure cope; would the schools and medical services be adequate?

e. Education

(percentage of total comments in category)



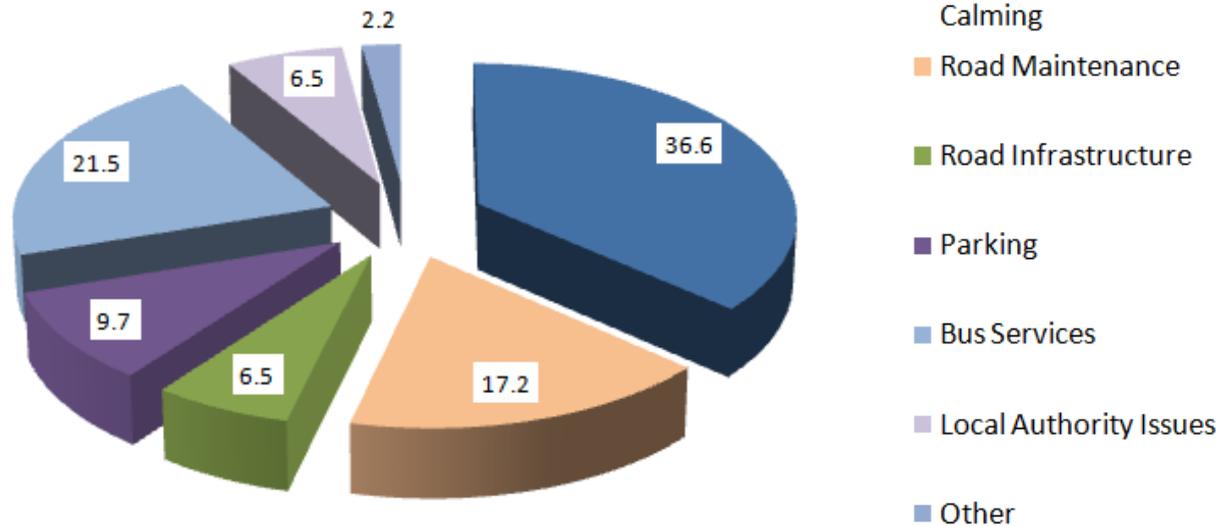
The comments about education were unprompted and were entirely a wish for a local secondary school.

Part of this issue was the opposition (if not anger) about transporting pupils to their secondary school by bus and in the future parents having to pay for it.

Some felt that with the future closure of Evreham, there is an opportunity to use part of that site for a new secondary and adult education centre ,or alternatively to build a school on one of the designated development site options.

f. Parish-wide issues

(percentage of total comments in category)



Traffic Reduction and Calming: There is a lot of concern about the volume and speed of traffic through Iver Heath. This is coupled with concern about pollution, using residential roads as rat runs and using Iver Heath as a motorway bypass resulting in a lot of heavy traffic.

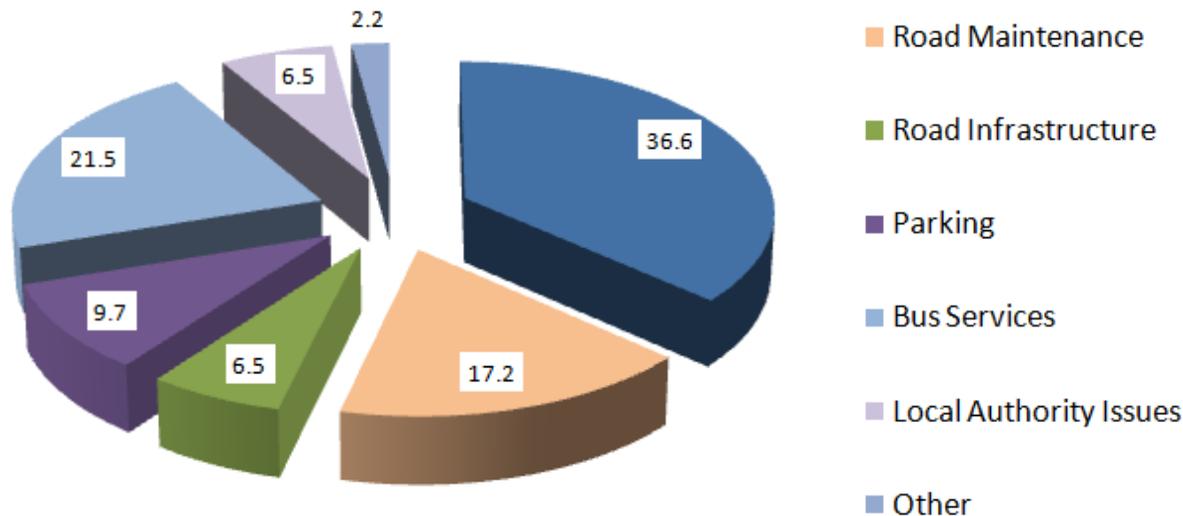
With regard to pollution IHRA has undertaken monitoring over the last 16 months across 10 sites in the village. Results have identified sites and times of the year where the legal threshold of 40 ug/cu.m NO₂ is exceeded. IHRA will continue to monitor, quarterly, during 2019. SBDC is currently working on an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the Ivers AQMA. We await the publication of draft measures from SBDC to mitigate pollution impacts and we are advised that the final report is due in August 2019. IHRA will publish its own report of monitoring to date and provide this to SBDC, IPC and GPs, expressing our concerns about health implications and councils' legal responsibility to act.

There is a wish for more traffic calming measures and some resolution to reducing traffic and improving road safety. The danger of both Church Road and Slough Road zebra crossings was specifically highlighted and a wish to change these to pedestrian controlled crossings.

Road infrastructure encompassed the wish for a North/South road connection and the widening of Seven Hills Road with the necessary improvements to the A412 junction.

While these are major projects, some issues could be relatively quickly solved: e.g. cutting back hedges and trees which restrict visibility, improving road furniture and road markings.

Parish-wide issues continued (percentage of total comments in category)



PARKING

Parking on pavements is annoying and potentially dangerous for people with buggies and mobility scooters. **This is prevalent in Heathway and other residential streets.** Most frequently mentioned was the **parking at the Co-op shop parade** which is clearly inadequate. This leads to inappropriate parking into Thornbridge Road and Ashford Road and a dangerous tail back onto the Stag and Hounds roundabout.

BUS SERVICES

The new routing of the **no. 3 bus is disliked.** The lack of a circuit via Church Road means that residents that side of the village, many of whom are elderly, have to walk a lot further to get a bus. The IHRA's own survey showed that residents used the bus to Uxbridge 3 or 4 times a week and outside of commuter hours. Restoring the route, if only on specific days and from mid morning to mid afternoon would be helpful.

It was also noted that without one's own transport getting to **Wexham Park Hospital** is very difficult and time consuming.

LOCAL AUTHORITY ISSUES

Those who responded here had the following concerns:

- It is unclear which local authority is responsible for what
- If one phones one authority (BCC, SBDC or IPC) you can get the "pass the parcel treatment"
- It is also felt the IPC should engage with residents more and circulate information in a more efficient and timely way.

4. Priorities



It can be concluded from this exercise that the following are priorities for the residents of Iver Heath:

- To create and improve a village centre, including the recreation ground and pavilion to provide:
 - a wider range of sports and leisure facilities
 - improved facilities for the elderly
 - an extended range of health services provided at the heart of the village
- Preserve and enhance green spaces for the general well being of residents and to keep a semi-rural ambience
- Introduce measures to reduce traffic volume and speed, to improve road safety and reduce pollution
- Improve local road infrastructure e.g. North/South link road and widening of Seven Hills Road
- Build a local secondary school
- Ensure that new development includes green spaces and consists of affordable or Housing Association properties
- Make use of the Evreham site
- Enhance connectivity in and around Iver Heath with improvement and creation of footpaths and cycle-ways
- Improve parking facilities especially by the Co-op
- Improve bus services.

There is also a need for Local Authorities to be more transparent and timely in their communication to keep residents informed. In addition, residents value the semi rural ambience of Iver Heath and are frustrated by a general lack of maintenance of the environment.

5. Conclusion

The Iver Heath Residents' Association has conducted a valid and representative conversation with the residents of Iver Heath. All comments have been taken note of and the feedback has been carefully analysed. In the current absence of a "Made Plan" for the Neighbourhood of the Ivers, this document is being submitted to Iver Parish Council and South Bucks District Council. The IHRA respectfully requests that these findings are taken into consideration as part of the consultation process in finalising a Neighbourhood Plan and a Local Plan.

6. Appendix

Supporting images relating to IHRA meetings where Neighbourhood Plan feedback was gathered



A.



SPECIAL INVITATION TO PARENTS

**What might the future of Iver Heath look like for you and your children?
Come along and give us your views**

Councils have been busy drawing up medium and long term plans for our village, covering everything from schools, housing and leisure facilities to green spaces and roads. But have you had your say on what you want?

This is an invitation to all parents to attend a special meeting held by Iver Heath Residents' Association, hosted by the Iver Heath Infants' School and Nursery.

Find out:

- What these plans are about
- Why they are important to all of us
- How they might affect you and your children

Tell us:

- What do you value about Iver Heath?
- What do you think should be improved?
- What new amenities would you like to see?

Iver Heath Infants' School and Nursery
6.30pm – 8.00pm on Tuesday 26th February

IHRA represents the views of residents to relevant authorities and aims to keep residents informed of events effecting our village.
Your opinions matter | We look forward to seeing you.

T: 07572 125960
E: ihrassecretary@gmail.com
W: www.iverheathna.co.uk

Twitter: @iverheathresas
Facebook: @iverheathresidentsassociation

B.

HOUSING

BT - PASSES. AT GATE 2/05 OR 1/06.

Affordable Housing

Size of Houses

Can they consider housing provides for low level work - into water using ponds address y

Affordable Housing FOR RESIDENTS FAMILIES

Green Space

Keep Iver Heath fields

Develop Epsom for secondary education keeping adult education as well

WITH RESTRICTIONS

26/02/19

OTHER MATTERS

URGENT SLOUGH ROAD BEING CROSSING TO PELICANS. CYCLE HIGHWAY TO IMPROVE TO CROSSING. TRAFFIC CALMING SIGNATURE SCHEM

Footpath Access

Traffic 26/02/19.

* pathway for children to walk from school to I.H. fields

Traffic Management Plan

Use Mad House land to extend Primary School

Pathways

Byways between Slough & M25/M40

min 10m wide crossing between The Parkway & Church Road

Whether Buggy access between Top & bottom of Iver Heath through allans

Volume & Speed of traffic on Church Road → speed restriction

Path link to Pinewood/Black park link road

Connecting paths and green spaces (not alongside busy roads) small play areas for small children (2/3 beds) look at Abington



A. IHRA targeted parents' involvement in the Neighbourhood Plan feedback exercise through holding events such as the one on 26th February and having a presence at the Iver Heath Infants' School and Nursery 2019 Spring Fair .

B. Feedback was taken via contributors writing comments on notes stuck on headed sheets and written down verbatim during conversations.

6. Appendix

C.



VILLAGE PLANNING GROUPS

INVITATION TO ALL IVER HEATH RESIDENTS

Councils have been busy drawing up plans for the future of our village covering everything from schools, housing and leisure facilities to green spaces and roads.

These plans could change the shape of Iver Heath for decades to come.

Come along to an open meeting to find out more and to give us your views

A brief presentation explaining this planning process will be followed by an 'open session' for you to tell us what you want.



Our meeting is kindly hosted by
Iver Heath Bowls Club
 Church Road, Iver Heath SL0 0DH
12.30 until 2.00pm on Saturday 13th April 2019

Your opinions matter | We look forward to seeing you.
 IHRA represents the views of residents to relevant authorities and aims to keep residents informed of events affecting our village.

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 Facebook: @iverheathresidentsassociation



D.



C. An Open Meeting was held at Iver Heath Bowls Club. Invitations were posted on social media, notice boards, emailed as well as delivered through letter-boxes in parts of Iver Heath in an effort to attract a wider demographic of residents.

D. The IHRA 2019 AGM, held at Iver Heath Village Hall on 11th May 2019, included a section on the Neighbourhood Plan process, an update on our findings so far and an invitation to members who had not yet had their say to add their comments to sheets at the Neighbourhood Plan information point at the back of the hall.



And finally, before you leave ...

... check out the information on:

- The Ivers Volunteers at Work and BBKV 2019 Entry
- IHRA projects including air quality monitoring
- Neighbourhood Plan and *have your say*
- Neighbourhood Watch
- SmartVille CCTV and ANPR Project



Members' AGM 11 May 2019



Neighbourhood Plan IHRA contribution

Most frequently mentioned issues and concerns



Members' AGM 11 May 2019



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