
The Big Conversation

Meetings with the children of Stutton School

March 2019

Penguins and Dolphins: aged 4, 5 and 6

First we sat in a circle on the floor and talked about what the adults in the village are talking about in The Big Conversation. Specifically, we talked about what they would like new house in the village to look like? And who might need houses.

- we'd like to see lots of different kinds of houses:
 - old houses that look as if they are in a fairytale
 - new houses
 - painted houses in lots of colours
 - ... and houses that are completely different, like nothing you've ever seen before
- some people will have lots of money and some people will be poor. We need houses for everybody
- every house should have a garden
- every house should have a horse paddock

Then the children did a painting of a house they would like to see here. They talked as they painted ...

- this house costs whatever they have and then I'll give them the money for the rest ...
- I've drawn a vegetable garden. Lots of vegetables. (I don't like vegetables)
- house should be built of lots of things - brick wood and straw because it will give texture.

- I don't know why - I've used lots of different materials in the same house

Whales: aged 7,8,9,10

We talked about the Big Conversation - and the different topics that the adults in the village are addressing. We talked for over an hour (we went for a run in the middle). This is what the children think.

Housing

What would you like new houses to look like:

- small cottages – for single people / couples / small families
- thatched roofs – attractive country cottages
- houses with pebbled walls
- much as I like modern houses, I don't think they would fit in here”
- houses like my house – dormer bungalow – it's spacious, big garden
- my cottage feels safe
- unique houses
- underground houses, steps down to a house so the landscape is important
- old – fashioned
- old style but modernised by changing colours for example
- Tudor style, close to the Tudor houses that are here already; but with modern features glass doors – lots of light
- wooden houses – they look good – try something different
- I don't want more houses because Stutton is peaceful”
- from my experience, the new houses that they have just built in Brantham don't fit in with what is already there”
- people want to live in Stutton so the village needs more houses
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Then we had a vote. “What kind of design should the Neighbourhood Plan recommend?”

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|-------------------------|----|
| • old-fashioned / rural | 15 |
| • new, different houses | 3 |
| • a mixture | 3 |

Where should new houses NOT be built?

- not on the community shop field
- not at Alton Water (nature)
- not near the church (peaceful)

- on the fields near the long straight road opposite the War Memorial. But it is peaceful and open there and that would spoil it
- not opposite the school – don't want lots more children at the school
- not one big cluster of houses – smaller groups
- not on the road out towards Brantham

Environment

There are organisations that protect the beautiful and special places around the village. But are there things we can do, to protect and improve the environment.

- more animals in the village on a big farm / rescue centre / more space for animals
- use glass straws not paper
- at the shop - have baskets (maybe wooden) instead of plastic
- when we go to the Community shop – take a box to take your fruit etc home in
- use more natural materials in our buildings
- have plastic bag collection boxes for re-use
- protect the green open spaces when new houses are built

Traffic through the village

We spoke about the different feelings amongst adults - some are worried about the increasing traffic; some are not worried. This is what the children think:

- there are lots of buses and cars around the time we come to school
- the buses can be quite scary to drive past
- but children need to get to school – if there weren't coaches, children would all be in separate cars so there would be more traffic
- and often it's not the coaches at fault, it's the cars too
- the roads are quite narrow – and there is parking on the road which can be difficult
- there is too much speeding
- coaches and drivers both need to be careful and understand how everyone feels
- 'get over it' – we know it's going to be busy at the start and end of school. We have to make it work

Can children do anything to improve things?

- we could park cars outside the King's Head, or outside the village hall and walk to school from there
- this gives us health benefits, and there will be fewer cars on the road outside school

We voted to see who would be prepared to walk from one of these car parks

- 11 agreed that it would be good (but noted that people from Holbrook direction would have to go past the school and walk back)

Other suggestions

- perhaps we could have parking underground or a multi storey car park somewhere
- but this would not look good in the beautiful nature in the village