

Question 16

Working life:

Most of the land in our parish is actively used for farming.

Do you think that the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to protect this current pattern of land usage?

Do you have any comments that support your view?

[Written responses to the 'any comments' question are recorded with abbreviations of the respective tickbox 'should seek to protect' answer. Y = Yes, N = No, DK = Don't know, NA = not answered.]

- Y: Vital! Prosperous rural economy – part of a core principle of the NPPF
- Y: Losing the open spaces will generate more traffic, the roads are too congested as it is
- Y: Support local farmers + protection of green spaces. Part of character.
- Y: Character of Haversham
- Y: I moved here to be near farming area as feels like in country but not too far from MK for work
- Y: We need to do our bit to protect British Farming – especially with Brexit
- Y: Food production security is becoming more and more important with Brexit. This is a well maintained agricultural area which **MUST** be protected
- N: Business should be kept apart from residential living

- Y Maintain local produce and preserve the natural land and wildlife
- Y No building on Greenfield site, farm bridleways
- N Farming is not a 'protected' right. It must allow for demands, including housing.
- Y All actively used land should not be considered for development to maintain the rural aspect of the village/estate.
- Y The farmland should be kept as it is because it is used to maintain the lovely aspect of the estate and village.
- NA You can't help that society is growing. Maybe use it as a last resort?
- Y We are not only a rural community but also a facility for the people of MK to come and enjoy beautiful countryside.
- Y In an expanding MK it is important to protect farming and a rural landscape for future use.

- Y We live in a rural area and it should be protected. But to build houses, Haversham will have to use farm land.
- Y This is Haversham's identity.
- Y The location of the village set in attractive countryside and surrounded by well maintained agricultural land is its main attraction.
- Y The village has long been associated with farming, both arable and pastoral and this should continue.
- Y Anything that improves the 'community' should be within the scope of the plan.
- Y It's someone's hard work that has gone into the land, someone's life.
- Y We should support the British farming industry thereby supporting our wildlife and countryside.
- Y If this land is lost for housing it will be lost forever. We are all encouraged to buy British but if we build on all our agricultural land we will have to rely on more imports.
- Y We have a large working farms - we should do all we can to support them.
- Y But housing is still important (got to build somewhere).
- Y Because everyone still needs to eat. If we build more homes over agri land we import more & prices rise.

- Y Providing land is used productively

- Y Farming is important to this country and could become more so in the near future – losing the farms would be a devastation
- Y As much as is possible but any new development will have some impact. Should identify brownfield sites first, if there are any
- Y Better than nothing
- Y Our farming community is under huge pressure with many farmers committing suicide or going bankrupt. Farming is a hard life. Should we be actively engaging with them? and buying local – local shop. Rather than large plots of land and new estates, use smaller plots broken up by farmland. This would protect large wild life corridors
- Y We need to support our farming community, actively engaging with them and buying local. New houses should blend with the natural surroundings rather than forcing a ‘super estate/s’ into the area putting pressure on the habitat and resources
- Y Farmers and developers can be a potential toxic combination for a community – we choose to live in a rural area because that’s what it is and should remain so
- Haversham/Little Linford are/were agricultural villages. Most land is very productive
- Y Village life falls hand in hand with farmland around it
- Biodiversity relies on hedgerows and field to sustain animal species – the fact that these fields/hedgerows are well established means they are home to lots of varied flora and fauna

- Y – Because it is their business and livelihood. Why ruin someone’s life?
- Y – If you don’t protect the land in our Parish, we will be swamped by greedy people wanting to build everywhere, thus overhauling the idea of a village lifestyle.
- Y – Protecting people’s livelihoods and sources of local food is important.
- Y – The character of the parish should be retained, with minimal change or damage to the environment.
- Y – What attracted me to the village was its rural, farming aspect, outside Milton Keynes.
- Y & N – Not used for farming but yes should be protected.
- Y – The farmland is what gives the area its charm. I understand this will eventually erode and I am fine with that but at a moderate and organic rate. We personally know some local farmers and while I’m sure they’d be happy of the average(?) they’ll receive, I know they would be sad to lose their livelihoods.
- Y – Protecting the income sources of local farmers is imperative.

- Y – We should maintain if possible but the village does need to grow
- Y – farmers need somewhere to farm
- Y – because the parish is a rural parish & should remain
- Y – farming is part of the local community – provides work / livelihood for local people
- Y – houses are ugly
- Y – we will be more dependent on farming / growing our own food with Brexit so who’s going to tell my grandchildren that we sold off local farm land so MK council hit a short term plan
- Y – If this ceases to be the case we will cease to be a rural area. The current open space & rural landscape is very important to me
- Y- farming the land around here is almost the domain of one farmer. That should remain as farm land and not be built on willy nilly on bits of land and newly acquired holdings
- Y – we live in the countryside we need fields!
- NA – yes we should be more self-sufficient as a country / county especially with Brexit
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- After Brexit I’m guessing that Britain as a whole will need to start growing / supplying more here locally. Encourage farmers not to sell their land for large housing development

- Y – to the extent that it does not prevent suitable development
- Y – active use, key to ‘feel’ of village life
- Y – it is the heritage of this area

- Y – local economy & to disrupt the use of the land would be to deface the parish as it now finds itself
- Y – it's why I love living here
- Y – too much development in countryside per se. Protect wildlife etc. Can urbanisation inc. flooding risk in parts of the parish?
- As a lover of nature & our environment I would be unhappy to see the village expanded & eventually joined up with MK which seems to be happening in surrounding rural areas
- Y – it is important that food is produced close to large cities to minimise transport costs
- Y – land needs management
- Y – too easy for urban blight to creep

- Y - ?? where do you think otherwise you can build a house
- Y – The general growth of MK should be limited so that developers find surrounding land less attractive
- Y – All the fields around Haversham need to be kept this way
- Y – The farm land supports the look/environment of Haversham and much of the land backs onto current houses, areas not suited for development
- Y – As it is a village and surrounded by fields it should be kept that way
- Y – Population growth and climate change are putting pressure on land and food production. We need farmland.
- Y – The farming area here is important and helps to create the rural setting of Haversham
- Y – Future proofing agricultural land for future generations.

- DK Farming seems to be becoming less viable, I believe farmers know best about this.
- Y Food production is extremely important.
- Y To keep its rural feel
- N If new homes are needed then we have to look at agricultural land.
- Y Failure to maintain agricultural use will lead to pressure for development.
- Y As far as possible, though it seems inevitable, that if we have to accept housing development it will have to be at the expense of loss of some farming land.
- Y We are a rural community but are on the edge of a large ever growing town and need to protect our individuality and country feel.
- Y If we disturb the balance of our landscape we risk losing the essence of what we are about. The Paton family in particular are very visibly supportive of local community values and regularly help social centre activities but also invite groups such as school children to understand the importance of farming.
- Y It is important to keep the farmland as it keeps the area a calm and pleasant place to be. Farming is also very important for wildlife especially the bees.
- Y It is the reason I live here. I cannot cope in a built up environment (medical reasons). A countryside farming environment is one I can live within.

- Y It maintains the feel of community and ruralness in the village and surrounding areas – building on this would remove that
- DK. I said 'don't know' as some small parcels of land may need to be used for development. So 100% protection would prevent any development.
- Y. If it is profitable for the __ ? tax men? We should keep the land
- N. Farming does not improve the natural environment and does not provide many jobs
- Y. If we lose our farmland why would people like living in the countryside
- Y. We like our local produce.
- Y. It is important to protect and support our local farming community in order to keep the supply of fresh healthy local food in the area, particularly as we leave the EU and food may be sourced cheaply across the globe with less regard for quality.
- Y. It would be a great shame to lose the rural feel in the area.
- Y. Make sure no more business units are built unless [they] blend in with the environment.

- Y. Farms can diversify by providing small business units
- N. Brexit will have a major impact (disastrous?) on the viability of farming.
- Y. Farming maintains the landscape and is important to the country's economy. They make a huge contribution to village life.
- Y. We all need to eat.
- Y. Agriculture very much characterises the feel of the village. We are close to nature and have very easy access to the countryside which is being managed by farmers.
- Y. We still have an identity separate from MK developments which we wish to keep.
- Y. I live here because it's a rural environment. I would like to continue living there
- Y. Haversham is a village surrounded by fields and farms and should stay this way
- Y. Particularly in view of recent foreign policy I think that permanently destroying farmland and wilderness to build homes is short sighted. It is a time when we need to be more self sufficient, not incapable of this.
- Y. We are a family farm with the intention of continuity of farming, 2 youngsters actively involved, working for neighbouring farms, Newport young farmers, shoots, etc., we rely on not having immediate neighbours and intend to increase livestock numbers -> obvious muck, smells at times
- DK. While agriculture is important, so too is providing other types of employment and providing housing and facilities
- N. Private land owners should do what they like
- Y. Agriculture should be encouraged within the local community Education of the use of land and the benefits the future generations will benefit from will depend on the actions of ourselves. Encouraging agriculture and the diverse species it encourages can only be a positive thing.
- Y. Preserves the natural countryside views; our farmers are v good at maintaining footpath network; our farmers are good at managing and reducing flooding which would be increased by further building.
- Y. As far as possible; otherwise consider building a new village with separation from existing villages, not just join them together.
- Y. We live here because of the rural and historical character of the village. If we wanted a city, then MK is close by and available and we would move there.
- Y. Do we want to become another Bradwell or Willen?
- Y. Farmers are very concerned about their land
- Y. I was born and grew up at the Mill
- N I think it is unreasonable and probably unsustainable. Yes it would be lovely to be surrounded by farmed countryside but we live on the very edge of a major town which is growing all the time. Better to be realistic now and look at ways of allowing diversification, limiting the impact as we go. Of course with recent political events UK farming may enter a new period of growth.
- Y Support local farmers. Good educational purpose.
- Y Once agricultural land goes, it's gone forever. The landscape and wildlife changes -we will never get that back.
- Y We all need to eat- lose farmland - lose food.
- Y We may well need our agriculture when we leave the EU.
- Y Support and keep British farmers. Very very important.
- Y Food production is vital
- Y Farming is a large part of this area and should remain. Too much farming land has been used for development. We should support our farmers
- Y It's what makes Haversham a beautiful community. It's what the people who have bought their houses moved here for!! A piece of country life, quiet and simple for their children
- Y The land within the MK boundary continues to be used for expansion of housing stock. Do we need to continue to the surrounding villages?
- Y I chose to live in a village with fields around me

- Y There is a plentiful supply of land suitable for new homes within built up confines of the new city. There are council tenants renting homes with spare bedrooms.
- Y Absolutely Yes, this should be protected because once it's gone, it's gone for good
- Y Farming land in a number of areas of Milton Keynes has been lost to large building sites (Broughton, Wavendon) just one example
- Y Yes, as my husband's family lost their farm in 1970 to the development of Milton Keynes. I think we should look after the farm land we still have, with an increasing population we need quality farm land to use in food production
- Y Yes but we need compromise
- Y This will ensure biodiversity in terms of plants and wildlife
- Y We need farms to produce our food! To not protect our farming land would be lunacy!
- Y It is important to protect the way of life the bio diversity of the areas. Also strategically for the country and strong, independent agricultural economy is important.
- Y Agricultural land should be and is protected against development
- N Farms are businesses producing food. As such and as per DEFRA/Government planning policy should be actively encouraged to diversify in farm buildings. A local plan cannot have a role in protecting agricultural land. Agricultural land use has to periodically change to reflect national need for food and energy and for farms to remain viable.
- Y As if local farming goes, things in the supermarkets will soar upwards.
- Y Once open land and farm land is used for buildings it can never be retrieved back.
- Y Being surrounded by farmland was one of the reasons I moved to the village.
- Y If it is lost it will be lost forever.
- Y Farmland should be protected where possible through maintaining existing village boundaries.
- N If we do build – it must change the agriculture. We don't have brown land to redevelop!! More important to make sure agricultural land can be used efficiently still. The agricultural land & parks are important to keep the village 'defined' - in a green context – distinct from other villages.
- Y Small cottage industry.
- Y The fields are well managed and provide an income. They are also an amenity that is well used by local people and horse riders. The paddocks provide local equestrian facilities – could these be developed?
- Y We are a countryside village and British farms are of utmost importance to the economy.
- Y Why would we want all of the farming to go? We will end up a concrete jungle, let Haversham keep some of our green fields and cattle.
- DK I don't know enough to answer yes or no. While it's important to preserve the open landscape and village setting, one cannot protect farming unless it is economically viable.
- Y support local
- Y farming important to community and provides protected green space
- Y but maybe a bit could be used for housing in small pockets
- DK It is important that farmers provide the livestock and food grains to the country but where any land is surplus or not used properly, perhaps these could be sensitively used for housing e.g infills.
- Y Farming land is very important for all our community. It is very important to me as it is one of the main reasons we moved to a rural location away from a concrete and brick jungle.
- Y Farming not only provides a valuable food source it also enhances the community - employment, May Day festival.
- Y We should support our farmers more.
- Y Having enjoyed the real peace, beauty and walking facilities for 48 years we want to continue
- Y We seem to be losing our farms at an alarming rate nationally. Land – and its food potential is our only real asset
- Y Why would you live in this Parish otherwise?
- N Most of it is flood plain and is protected anyway!
- Y Once lost, lost forever

- N Farms are a business not a museum. Government/DEFRA Planning Policy actively encourage farm diversification. It is not the role of the Local Plan to protect agricultural land
- N Farms are businesses as per DEFRA/Government planning policy should actively be encouraged to diversify. A Local Plan should not have a role in protecting agricultural land. Old farm buildings should be considered for housing
- Y I am against major development on existing farmland. The Neighbourhood Plan is good but, this aside, I am opposed to development in the 'Northern Expansion Area'
- Y The rural landscape and land for agriculture must be retained. I am opposed to any idea of developing the 'Northern Expansion Area'
- Y We live here because it is a rural community. Without our farmland we would be just part of the MK sprawl
- N Some farmland may not be so easy to cultivate and may be able to be used in another way.
- Y We would like to continue living in a village surrounded by a rural area and for it not to become engulfed by a new estate, therefore losing its rural identity. We also need to retain our agriculture for the community's benefit.
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- Y Large parts of MK have been built on, let's not ruin a peaceful village by adding houses/flats that will take over our farms.
- Y Very important. We feel it's important to maintain a feel of village life and the countryside rather than be subsumed into an urban conurbation. The environment we live in is an important part of our heritage which must be maintained for future generations.
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- Y Part of landscape of this parish is farmland. Expansion of large areas of housing, merging into MK city will completely change the landscape.
- Y Livestock and arable farming will be increasingly important as we move out of the EU. Home produced products will be critical.
- Y Stop large developments. Stop developers making fortunes out of poorly built ugly houses!!!
- Y Farmland more important to village than 100s of ugly houses.
- Y UK nearly starved 3 times in last 100 years. We need to be more self-sufficient and we need land so that planting/animal care can be a 'tap'. No land - no food.
- Y Farmland in this country is fast disappearing and should be preserved wherever possible. Not only is this an environmentally responsible attitude but also preserves the visual benefits. We all enjoy having these land areas so close to where we live.
- Y It will retain the feel of the villages and surrounding community.
- Y Changing this would change the character of the village. Any housing development would need to be on a small scale.
- Y I moved to the village 29 years ago because looking out of 3 bedrooms you could see the agricultural fields and wildlife.
- DK We need farming communities but we also need housing.
- *N As the population grows we have got to accept that people need somewhere to live. I see it that it is of greater importance to subscribe to this fact. We cannot keep saying we agree -but not here in our parish!
- Y It is and should remain a rural community.
- Y It's a rural community - people choose to live and work here because it is not a suburb or overdeveloped.
- Y In order to protect our countryside from development.
- Y The less housing growth, the better.