

Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan

Tony Carson

I have an interest in land in Ringmore Grid Reference: SX 653 459 of 2.055 acres.

I have not been afforded the opportunity to complete the survey, for the Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan and would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on it on this platform.

I grew up at Easton, Bigbury, from the age of two in 1964 and spent much of my informative years in Ringmore as a child, as it had a predominant of children who I use to go to Primary school with in Modbury in the early seventies and then on to Ivybridge Community College.

I also lived in Ringmore when working for the Holiday camp at Challaborough and the local builder based in Ringmore. My Grandparents lived in Ringmore for many years. My Father was the Local District Councillor for 16 years before his retirement.

The village in the seventies was vibrant and had a Post office, Grocery shop, and the Journeys End Public House.

There were approximately 10 Council owned houses in the heart of the village, which provided quality accommodation for working families, and helped to give the village a soul.

I was disappointed to read the Neighbourhood plan as it is showing an underlying trend of deterioration in the village's community structure confirmed by the loss of amenities and some of the more probing answers of the survey.

From the 2011 Census it was showing 210 people living in the village, which bearing in mind the age profile of residents, it is a little difficult to completely rely on this information in 2018 and 2020.

However, assuming the data is robust the number of returns of the survey amounted to less than <50%.

A good consultation is 70% and above.

It is stated a low proportion of tenant occupied houses did not respond.

Question 20 gives informative information of the issues facing the village.

Those most unsatisfied with the village offer were young people, young parents, families, and the frail and elderly. This leaves the retired group as the most satisfied. The profile of retired residents in Ringmore will be career successful people who can afford the housing stock in the village, which is some of the most expensive in the South Hams.

So, it can be deduced the window of satisfaction for residents is very narrow and is leading to a significant imbalance of the community.

The plan states that there is not a need for smaller housing units i.e. two bedroom bungalows for elderly people and starter homes for young families. This is not how I interpret the survey data.

If this plan is adopted for the next five years without a provision for encouraging a more balanced community the village will become even more of an elite place to live like a few other villages in the South Hams.

Tony Carson