

# **Braishfield Housing Survey Analysis July 2025**

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**243**

Responses

**84.4%**

Homeowners

**46.9%**

Lived > 20 Years

**100%**

Verified Braishfield  
Residents

**34%** knew little  
about it and **33%**  
heard about it for  
the first time

Surrounding  
developments  
**47.7%** knew  
little about it

## Opposition Levels

- Strongly Oppose:  
52.3%
- Somewhat Oppose:  
18.9%
- **Total Opposition:**  
**71.2%**

## Support Levels

- Strongly Support:  
1.6%
- Somewhat Support:  
18.1%
- Neutral: 9.1%
- **Total Support:** **19.7%**

**Key Finding: 71.2% opposition vs 19.7% support indicates strong community resistance to the current proposal scale**

# Primary Community Concerns

## **Traffic Impact:**

Overwhelming majority concern (8 out of 10 residents) - village roads already used as a “rat run” with speeding traffic.

## **Infrastructure Strain:**

School at capacity, GP surgeries oversubscribed, sewage system concerns, utilities

## **Environmental Impact:**

Loss of green spaces, impact on wildlife and ecosystems, threat to mature oak trees and agricultural land

## **Loss of Village Character:**

Fear of becoming “suburb of Romsey” rather than maintaining rural village identity

Traffic and Safety Concerns:  $54 + 244 + 309 = 607$  extra houses. Total new cars on the road = 1396 cars....

## Critical Issues Identified:

- **Traffic crisis: 79.4%.** Safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Narrow rural lanes surrounding village.
- **Village Character Under Threat: 74.9%.** Fear of losing rural, village identity. Concern about urbanisation and density.
- **Infrastructure Strain:** School capacity, medical facilities, utilities, highways - water, sewage, electricity, mobile coverage and internet bandwidth and local services

**Residents' Verdict:** Infrastructure "stretched" and "cannot cope with existing developments"

**"Thousands of houses built  
between Braishfield and  
Romsey in past 20 years"**

## **Recent Major Developments:**

- **Abbotswood:** Large housing estate
- **Ganger Farm:** 309 additional houses
- **Cupernham Lane:** Major infills
- **Multiple others:** Cumulative impact on infrastructure

**Alternative Questioned:** Residents cite unused "Brewery site in  
Romsey with 250 house allocation for >30 y

# What Scale Would Be Acceptable?

## Community Preferences

- **Small** (fewer than 10 homes)- 60.1%
- **Medium** (10-30 homes) - 18.1%
- **Large** (31-50 homes) - 2.5%
- **No development** - 19.3%

## What Residents Want

- Developments “similar to Oak Close”
- Small, incremental growth
- Housing for locals with village connections
- Sympathetic design maintaining character

**60.1% prefer small developments - the proposed 54 house development is significantly larger than the community considers acceptable**

**Democratic Process Concerns:**  
Many residents stating “first I’ve  
heard about it”

## **Engagement Problems:**

- **Poor Communication:** Many unaware of proposal initially
- **Lack of detail:** Insufficient information on housing types, infrastructure plans
- **Community input:** Desire for Parish Council involvement in design
- **Developer motive:** Skepticism about “making money vs genuine need”

**Residents Want:** “Village-led, not imposed”  
development with meaningful community  
consultation



# Among Those Who Support Development:

## Housing Types Preferred:

- Starter/first-time buyer homes
- Affordable/social housing
- Downsizing/retirement or senior living

## Conditions for Support:

- Small-scale development
- Priority for local residents
- Infrastructure improvements first
- Sympathetic design

**Key Insight:** Community not opposed to housing per se, but wants appropriate scale and local benefit.

# What the Comments Reveal:

- **Informed Opposition:** Residents provide specific, factual concerns about infrastructure capacity
- **Sophisticated Understanding:** References to Village Design Statement, precedent effects, planning law
- **Alternative Solutions:** Constructive suggestions for [brownfield sites](#), phased development
- **Local Expertise:** Intimate knowledge of village constraints and opportunities

**"This isn't NIMBYism - it's  
evidence-based concern about  
genuine constraints"**

# What Residents Suggest:

- **Scale:** Small, phased developments over large single developments
- **Timing:** Infrastructure upgrades must precede housing development
- **Design:** Maintain Village Design Statement standards
- **Priority:** Reserve affordable housing for people with village connections
- **Alternatives:** Consider brownfield sites before greenfield
- **Traffic:** Implement traffic calming measures

**Bottom Line:** Community willing to accommodate appropriate growth, but current proposals exceeds acceptable limits.

# Strong Opposition Evidence:

- **71.2%** oppose current proposal
- Infrastructure already at capacity
- Traffic safety concerns
- Village character threatened

## Path Forward:

- Consider smaller scale (under 10 homes)
- Address infrastructure first
- Improve community engagement
- Explore brownfield alternatives

**Final Assessment:** Survey reveals informed community opposition based on practical constraints, not blanket resistance to housing

## Next steps:

- **Revised Regulation 18. Complete TVBC's formal consultation by midday Friday 5 September.** Online, or email, or in writing to Andover. [planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk)  
Paper copies here.
- **Consider writing to the MP.** Tell her to raise the matter directly in Parliament and press ministers on why such disproportionately high targets have been imposed on areas like Test Valley. Ask her what she is doing about the infrastructure crisis.
- **Plan period 2025-2042**
  - ? End June 2026 ? Revised Regulation 19 (formal publication stage). Final draft before submission. Anyone can make further representations - and forward to Planning Inspector. Last chance to object.
  - ? End Sept 2026 ? Submission to Planning Inspectorate
  - ? End Dec 2026 ? Examination by Planning Inspector. Public hearings.
  - ? End December 2027 Adoption of Local Plan (if found to be sound)

QR code direct to  
online consultation.  
You will need to  
login or set up an  
account.

Policy SA26: Land  
West of Braishfield  
Road

