

## **Objective 1 - To protect existing green and open countryside and conserve and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity.**

*What respondents said:*

### **Green Belt**

95% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the extent of the green belt must be retained unless exceptional circumstances can be clearly demonstrated which necessitate small scale adjustments to meet Cheshire East's Local Plan Strategic Objectives. Comments included:

**The Neighbourhood Plan policy on Green Belt would have to be in general conformity with national and local policies. The policy will ensure that other than any changes which may come about through the Cheshire East Local Plan Site Allocations Document, it will limit development to 'exceptional circumstances'. This could include a small scale rural exception site for affordable and social housing as highlighted by respondents.**

*'Protect the Green Belt'      'The Green Belt should remain untouched'*

### **Biodiversity and Wildlife Corridors**

There was support for the statement that development that would have a significant adverse impact on the local natural environment would not be permitted, with over 95% of respondents either strongly agreeing or agreeing. Comments included:

*'Support the inclusion of matters relating to the protection and enhancement of the open*

**The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to protect Chelford's areas of high habitat value and wildlife corridors, following evidence provided in the Cheshire Wildlife Study.**

*countryside and natural local environment'*

### **Footpaths and access to the countryside**

97.86% of people supported the statement 'Access to surrounding countryside will be promoted and protected by preserving public rights of way and by the provision of additional routes to open spaces and the local natural environment'. Comments included:

*'Walking routes should be encouraged and protected in and around the village to link up with open countryside.'*

*'Access to the countryside and local natural environment should be promoted and routes,*

**The Neighbourhood Plan will include a policy to protect and enhance existing footpaths and public rights of way, and to seek to ensure that any further new development provides links to the rest of the village and to the open countryside where possible.**

*including public rights of way, preserved and enhanced'*

# Objective 1 - To protect existing green and open countryside and conserve and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity.

## Questionnaire outcomes:

