



BUSINESS SURVEY

This survey of businesses in Gosfield is being conducted as part of our Neighbourhood Plan project. The Neighbourhood Plan is being compiled by a group of volunteers in conjunction with Gosfield Parish Council. After considerable consultation & community engagement the final Neighbourhood Plan will be put to a referendum of residents within Gosfield, when, if accepted, the plan will provide a statutory document that will sit alongside Braintree District Council's Local Plan for up to 20 years.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a detailed assessment of the needs of the village and looks at all areas of community life. Along with housing & development, the plan will look at community infrastructure and amenities, environmental considerations and importantly the role businesses play in our community.

Understanding how businesses and the community interact and how they can positively impact on each other more will form an important pillar to our Neighbourhood Plan.

Our plan will have the potential to influence a wide range of policies and decisions that impact the lives and livelihoods of our residents and help realise the potential of our businesses.

We understand that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an incredible impact on many businesses and we are keen not only to understand the current situation for your business, but are eager to understand what may have been the situation before March 2020. As our businesses and community emerges from this crisis, knowing the prospects and concerns pre-crisis will help inform our planning for the future of Gosfield. Some of the questions within the survey aim to identify these differences.

Please take 15-20 minutes to complete the survey enclosed. Alternatively, complete it on-line (www.surveymonkey.com/r/XLN79TZ) or use the QR code below to navigate straight to the survey. We have enclosed a pre-stamped envelope for you to return the paper copy if that is easier. Please return or complete the survey by 31st January 2021.

We very much understand and appreciate the value of your time and can assure you of the confidentiality of your responses. Please feel free to visit the Gosfield Parish Council website (www.e-voice.org.uk/gosfield/) to view the Data Protection Policy that we have in place in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations, 2018.

Thank you for completing the survey!





Name of business

Contact name

Email address

What is your main
business?

1. How long has your business been in operation? (Tick as appropriate)

Under 1 year

1-4 years

5-9 years

10 years or more

2. How long have you operated from your present site?

Under 1 year

1-4 years

5-9 years

10 years or more

3. Is your site?

About the right size for your business

Too small

Too large

Exclusively used for your business

Your home as well



4a. Are you currently seeking additional or new premises?

Yes No

4b. Were you seeking additional or new premises before the Covid-19 crisis?

Yes No

5. If either answer to question 4a or 4b was 'Yes' – where would these additional or new premises be?

In Gosfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Why?
In Halstead	<input type="checkbox"/>	Why?
In Braintree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Why?
Elsewhere	<input type="checkbox"/>	Why?

6. How many people do you employ in Gosfield in the following age groups?

Age Group	Full time (>30 hrs)	Part time
60 yrs and over		
20-59 yrs		
Under 20		

7a. Compared to 12 months ago, is the number of employees you have?

More
Same
Less

7b. Without the Covid-19 crisis, would you have forecasted the size of your workforce to be?

Larger
Same
Smaller



8. Enter the number of employees in each of the categories below.

Professional/Managerial	
Technical	
Clerical/Administrative	
Skilled	
Un-skilled	

9. Where do your employees live? (enter numbers)

In Gosfield	
In Halstead	
In Braintree	
Elsewhere within 10 miles	
More than 10 miles away	

10. Have any of your employees left due to the following difficulties? (Tick as appropriate)

- Finding appropriate or affordable housing locally
- Lack of available transportation to & from work
- Lack of available childcare availability locally
- Lack of available state funded school places locally
- Lack of available adult social care locally

11. Are electronic communications at your location adequate for your business?

Yes No

If not, why not?



12. Please identify approximate number of traffic movements to or from your business? (Exclude normal employee commuting)

Vehicle	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
HGVs			
LGVs			
Light Vans			
Cars			

13. Does your business benefit from being located in Gosfield? (Please tick & explain)

Yes No

How?

14. Does your business suffer from being located in Gosfield?

Yes No

How?

15. Would any of the following 'local' business facilities be beneficial to your business? (Please tick)

Office Space

Conference/Meeting venue

Storage

Workshops/Factory Space

Other – Please specify

16. Is there sufficient skilled labour available locally? Yes No

If not, what skills are in short-supply?



17. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being extremely difficult & 10 being extremely easy), how difficult or easy is it for your business to be 'environmentally friendly'?

1-10

18. Which of the following 'green' schemes could improve the environmental impact of your business? Please tick.

- Improved/cost effective recycling service
- Employees working from home
- Incentives for 'greener' transport to/from work
- Alternative power supply

19. What changes to local policy or services could make your business' environmental impact more positive?

20. Other than employment, in what ways might your business be a 'contributor' to the community?

21. Other than labour supply, in what other ways does the community contribute to the success of your business?



22. Does your business use incentives to encourage local customers/contractors to use your business?

Yes No

If so, how?

23. As a business, are you a member of a business networking group or organisation?

Yes No

If so, which?

24. Has your business fed into the various 'Consultations' with regards to Braintree District Council's Local Plan?

Yes No

If so, what were the key points you raised?

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY