

Appendix 16 – Devizes Workshop

CORE STRATEGY ISSUES RAISING CONSULTATION

Devizes Community Area Workshop

**Town Hall, Devizes
6.30pm, 26th March 2007**

This is a verbatim report of the meeting. There is no attempt to analyse comments made. Throughout the report notes recorded during the meeting are presented in normal type. Additional comments are presented in *italics*.

NB Following the meeting this report was circulated by e-mail to all those who attended the meeting and requested a copy and asked if this was an accurate record. Unfortunately one or two e-mail addresses were returned unknown and there was no other means of making contact. No-one queried the content of the report

The following people attended:

Daryl Saville-Brown	Devizes Development Partnership
Philip Brown	KDC Councillor
Larry Robertson	
Jean Robertson	
Judith Triggs	Devizes Development Partnership
M Maclean-Ives	Voluntary Community Worker
Amy Hallam	Carter Jonas LLP
Margaret Taylor	KDC Councillor
Michael Tatem	
E Valentine	
Ray Parsons	KDC Councillor
Anna Sexton	Kennet Valley Trust
Ray Taylor	Devizes Town Councillor
Margaret Tatem	
Jeff Ody	KDC Councillor
Ted East	Devizes Community Area Partnership
Janet Giles	KDC Councillor
Peter Newell	Urchfont Parish Council
Dave Buxton	
Jean Altree	
Chris Altree	
J Gacca	Devizes Development Partnership
N D Carter	KDC Councillor
A Duck	KDC Councillor
I Postlethwaite	Wiltshire County Council (Officer)
J Read	Urchfont Parish Council
C J Ellison	
K Callow	KDC Councillor / Roundway Parish Council

Facilitators

Ed White	Team Leader (Forward Planning & Transportation) Kennet District Council
Christopher Minors	Planning Officer (Forward Planning) Kennet District Council
Louisa Down	Planning Officer (Forward Planning) Kennet District Council
Val Powley	Community Partnership Officer Kennet District Council
Steve May	Housing Development Officer Kennet District Council
Cath Hasted	Policy Officer Kennet District Council

1. Arrival

On arrival people were asked to register their attendance and indicate if they would like to be kept informed of future planning consultations. Participants were advised that there would be two discussion sessions and asked to consider which two topics out of housing, economy, environment and community they would like to take part in (see Annex A). Tables were labelled by topic so that people could choose to take a seat at the table that would discuss their first choice topic.

2. Introduction

Ed White welcomed everyone to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the key issues facing the Devizes Community Area and over the next 20 years. Issues raised at this stage would be used to inform the content of the core strategy within Kennet's Local Development Framework. The next stage is to prepare a series of policy options for consideration.

3. Discussion Session One : Issues Consultation

• What are the key issues facing the Devizes Community Area?

Notes of the discussion were recorded on flip chart sheets. These notes are reproduced below.

Environment

Climate Change- Impact District, Renewable Energy, Recycling, Appearance and Improvement of Devizes Town (Wharf Development and Assizes Court) x3, Sustainable Construction

- Sustainability
- Climate change- All levels- coherent policy. Huge and fundamental subject. Climate change overarching
- Travel a big issue especially for Devizes. Housing, congestion, disturbance services (e.g. hospital). Conflict? - Yes & No-Trying avoid housing but overridden
- Renewable Energy – Realistic – Careful - Need to be careful I- Business case
- Grey water - Important to have in future development
- Improve recycling - Need to improve recycling by supermarkets
- Make improvement Devizes Town Centre - Design important new development- Community safety. Diversity Town centre good. Diverse design
- Empty upper floors need use
- Improving Energy conservation good
- Issue Wharf going to Residential, Need Leisure use
- Cycle Lanes - Improve & Link. Shared use? - Need signage
- Leisure amenities and facilities

* underlining denotes a key issue

Community

£2.3 million DLC should be more available to community, football pitches not being used by community

More funding should be provided for leisure facilities in the villages

Need to support public transport – in town & country

More buses to bring youngsters to the town

Rural transport quite good – need to maintain

Arts provision needs continued funding

Link between transport to and from hospitals for people with no transport (especially for older people)

Need transport from hospital on discharge

Link needed between transport and hospitals

Health Services being moved further and further away

Without volunteer drivers could not get about – need somewhere for them to meet

One Stop shop – volunteer centre

Value voluntary sector – sustain them – KDC should take a stand for voluntary sector support

Good diversity of shops

Rail link for Devizes – at Lydeaway

Large amount of traffic going through the middle of town

Shopping offer has to match growth of town

Further education – need places with proper facilities for courses – not just U3A

Not enough halls to house groups i.e. fitness groups, badminton, use church halls

* underlining denotes a key issue

Economy

Appropriate coach park to encourage visitors

Need for strong policy linked to tourism

Bus tours / stop point for tourists

Could be a major tourist attraction – need for joined up thinking

Promote SME provision – office space

Importance of the balance between economy and housing needs

Need to try and reduce the loss of employment land to housing

Hopton estate good practice

Refresh / modernise existing estates

Rural area – issue relating to high car ownership and dependency

More disabled parking spaces needed in the town centre

Perceived problem with parking in the town centre

Is there any scope for a park and ride system

Importance of transport networks and hubs

Encourage more bus networks from villages

Transport links / bypass

Need to promote a high quality retail environment which will encourage tourism / wealth creation

Market day of great importance

Public toilet closure – will this effect tourism / retail

Encourage high tech companies to locate within Devizes 'Technical hub'

* underlining denotes a key issue

Housing

Affordable housing (more especially rented)

Keep employment sites

Balance between urban/rural/employment and residential – IMPORTANT

Affordable housing – but not at expense of employment sites/ rural sites

Density and quality of affordable housing and private – too many dwellings crammed in

Apartment style developments more appropriate

Infrastructure – affordable housing thresholds

Availability of land – where to build ?

TRAFFIC. AFFORDABLE HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE, IDENTITY, LISTEN !

Traffic. Rat runs – Whistley lane, Marsh lane

Traffic. Increase in housing

Traffic. Housing density, urban centre housing policy.

Infilling

Gillespies consultation – limited success in attracting major retailers

Housing mix – higher proportion of affordable housing

Positioning of social housing, not in the right place

* underlining denotes a key issue

Housing Second Table

Traffic generated by new development

Facilities – important that they are appropriate and promoted and well maintained

Impact that new development will have on healthcare – need more facilities

Ample provision for resident's parking

Transport links to villages

Community centres included in new developments

Older person's accommodation within villages (providing extra care etc)

Flexibility on requirement for affordable housing in certain circumstances

Need enough land for affordable houses to be extended in size if required later?

Character of villages can be ruined by poorly conceived development and ad. Hoc extensions on existing

Housing to enable younger people to stay in villages.

* underlining denotes a key issue

4. Discussion Session Two : Issues Consultation

- **What are the key issues facing the Devizes Community Area?**

Notes of the discussion were recorded on flip chart sheets. These notes are reproduced below.

Environment

Careful not to fossilise the environment, Pollution-Traffic-State town (chewing gum etc, need to be clean like Dutch towns) x3, Preservation rural & consistent green space, Eco-homes-need more emphasis, Built environment – New & historical

Balance and Conflict (All topics overlap)

- Sustainable transport- More aggressive- Get people out of cars
- Street scene very important to improve & sort
- Need more open space - Need ensure new development has open space. Better use open space (at Wharf in particular) - Relates to housing densities
- Need to keep town cleaner - Need to replace bins – Education - Litter bins
- Need to increase community spirit in Devizes. Need to increase in new development
- Need to improve communication
- Eco-homes - Thermal insulation. Not just windmills
- Waste - Need to improve waste collection space in homes. Need incentives for recycling/waste, not penalise - can have an increase in waste issues. Incentives may not work at all. "Shame" people (debate)- Make people aware. Cultural thing - How makes culture shift?
- Must not be afraid of change

* underlining denotes a key issue

Community

Need community centres in housing areas to bring people together (classes, events) at all times of the day

Not enough for youngsters – community centres should provide this

Make use of community facilities which are under utilised

Need to work with young people – involve them
Make use of schools to encourage youngsters
Are schools too inward looking? – National targets – should build links locally to draw children towards facilities
Youth forum – getting underway – youth democracy
Skate Park – need to find new site for it – could be on industrial estate or on school site
Resources for community projects
Community arts – for ALL ages – need funding for this
Need to take through traffic out of town – bypass. People could cycle
Bypass at Jump Farm has already helped
Street furniture important – bins to stop rubbish being dropped
Health facilities – if people have to travel to hospital or to visit patients
Community hospital for people on discharge from major hospital
Health depends on balance of housing and other facilities in town. Limit housing if services not sufficient
Losing open spaces to walk – should be included in housing developments like village greens
Loss of land for employment – used for housing – spoils the balance
Encourage self – employed people in rural areas – work from home
Houses with workshop attached
Parish Councillors/ Village hall people need more contact with KDC
Posters to community to let them know what is available
* underlining denotes a key issue

Economy

Tourists have nowhere to stay
Encourage small units – office/retail/industrial
Loss of employment land to housing
Balance between housing and the economy
Technology firms / generation of IT education
Currently weak policy relating to the economy?
Need for an economic development department?
Transport – bypass? / rail link?
Try to capture high paid jobs – in order to reduce commuting
Improve transport links
Encourage IT development on vacant sites – west side of Devizes

Issue relating to car parking – coach park – motor homes

Secure external funding sources
Training in IT

Encourage large investors

Need for a hotel?

Improve leisure facilities

Signage improvement

* underlining denotes a key issue

Housing

Need for affordable housing in villages but not on same sites as open market (design and social issues)

Sustainable construction for all new builds e.g. Grey water etc

Need for sheltered accommodation/supported

Too much residential development in Devizes – creates imbalance across the district.
Need to rebalance

Maybe concentrate future development in Tidworth?

Need to balance requirement for housing/employment

Develop sustainable communities

Need subsidised/ better bus services between outer/central Devizes

Additional community facilities to accompany new residential development

Need for specialist/support accommodation as population grows

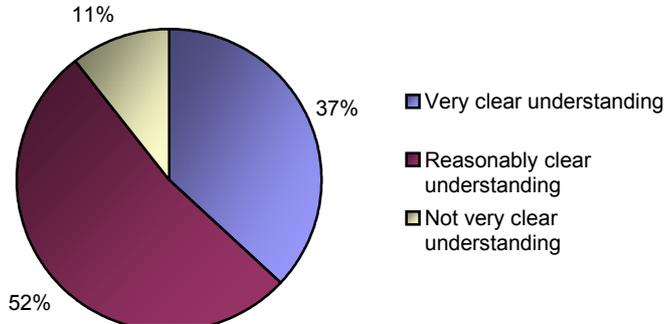
Use planning gain to address smaller issues not the bigger ones (e.g. New classroom on existing school)

* underlining denotes a key issue

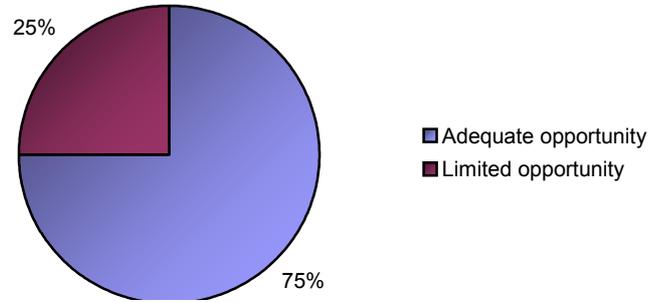
5. Exit Questionnaire

At the end of the meeting participants were asked to complete a short questionnaire about the meeting. These are the comments received.

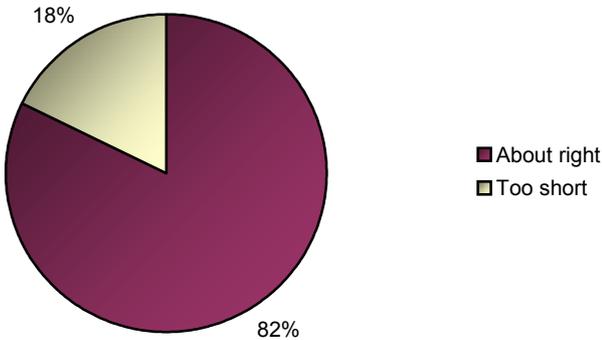
Did the issues papers circulated before the meeting provide you with a clear understanding of the issues?



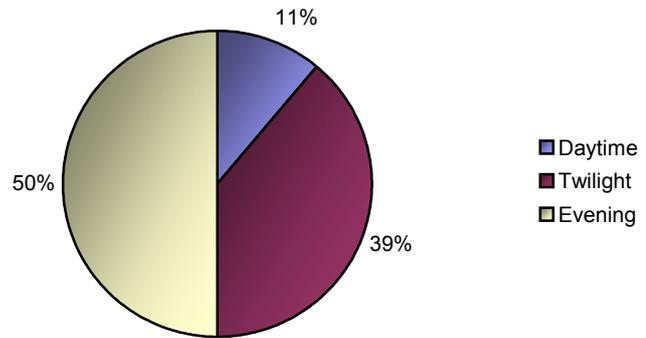
At the meeting did you feel you had adequate opportunities to make your views known?



Do you consider that this event was?



Which of these do you consider to be the most appropriate time for public meetings to be held?



How could we improve future events to allow participants to express their views?

The format should have been stated prior to the event. Should have been prepared for a debate just two topics. In other respects format was good. Small groups allowed people to have a say and prevented the usual few from hogging the discussion.	Should be slightly longer, 7pm start, too many councillors, need refreshments, good group size.
I did not get the papers before hand.	Ask questions of people rather than just a brain storming session.
Better briefing before the event.	Time for debate.
Good use of time, not to much time on intro etc.	Papers to be produced before the meeting, not advertised enough.
Advertise through newspapers, website and Kennet News.	Longer, start time to early for working people, Saturday daytime?
Larger venue to allow more people, advertise much more widely.	Later in the evening, advertised better.
Larger venue, more advertising, A-Boards in the centre, personal hand outs at the end. Invite experts to add to the discussion.	
To early for working people to attend 7pm would be better.	
Advertise event better, get more people, perhaps an open stall in the market place.	
More time need time to read the papers.	

Annex A – Agenda

CORE STRATEGY ISSUES RAISING CONSULTATION

Devizes Town Hall
23rd March 2007

AGENDA

1. Introduction 6.30
2. Discussion Group One 6.35
3. Discussion Group Two 7.00
 - In relation to (topic) what is the biggest issue facing the Community Area
4. Feedback Session 7.20

There will be four topic groups for each Discussion Group:

Housing
Environment
Economy
Community

Please can you choose two topics to discuss from the above list. Once you have decided please go and sit at the table relevant to the topic you wish to discuss in Discussion Group One

We will try to keep to a 7.30 close but this will depend on how lively the debate is

Each discussion group will have a facilitator. These are:

Ed White	Forward Planning and Transportation
Christopher Minors	Forward Planning and Transportation
Louisa Down	Forward Planning and Transportation
Val Powley	Community Planning
Steve May	Housing Services
Cath Hasted	Policy Officer