

NOTES FROM THE TOWN FORUM REVIEW SESSION HELD ON TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2009

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Jones	Councillor Jackson
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Deane	Councillor Redfern
Councillor Adams	Councillor Rogers
Councillor Baddeley	Councillor Rushton
Councillor Davies	Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Deaville	Councillor Walley
Councillor Gibson	Councillor Whilding
Councillor Hall	Councillor Lawson
Councillor Harper	Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Harris	Ruth Reeves – SMDC
Councillor J Harrison	Gaynor Parkinson - SMCVS
Councillor K Harrison	

Ruth Reeves SMDC and Gaynor Parkinson SMCVS were introduced. They gave a brief explanation of how the evening would progress. Members were then invited to participate in the various prioritisation exercises. As a result, the following were chosen as the top priorities, solutions and stakeholders for each category.

Children and Young People

Issue 1: Need for a town centre facility - somewhere safe to go – Youth Cafe

Possible solutions:

Safer schools project - ASB
Their own sort of advertising
Open forum for youngsters of engagement
Fridays and Saturdays – special activities for older children
Better education on lifestyles around drugs
Better engagement- citizenship
Leisure Centre/Youth Centre
Communication
Town centre facility
BYTE summer activities - huge range of activities eg cook and eat, music, sport tolerance

Stakeholders:

Town Council
Local Authority Councillors
SMCVS
Parents
Police
SMDC
SCC
Youth Service
Young People
Local Youth Worker
Education Welfare Officer

Issue 2: Lack of sports facilities

Possible solutions:

Affordability of sport activities for lower income families
Leisure centre summer programme – range of activities, helps self-esteem
Ongoing promotion PPG17 sporting facilities – audit – money to improve amenities
NHS funded Sport link into BHS sports college status
Inter-generational projects letting in the light better understanding Mill Hayes cricket pitch – not used now because of skatepark (added in pen - not true)

Fix and Ride
Netball for girls
Skatepark extension
Free Swims
Bowling – Leisure centre and Knypersley
Sports Village; Meadows site BHS

Stakeholders:

PCT
Leisure Services
Local Education Authority
Moorlands Housing
Local School
Pub Landlord
Residents
Playgroup
Tenants and Residents Association

Issue =2 Geographical isolation – travel from Biddulph

Possible solutions:

Larger sample survey of children and young people
Feedback from surveys
Look at transport issues
Free transport around local area

Stakeholders

Social Services/County Council

Health and Older People

Issue 1: lack of local x-ray facility

Issue 1: lack of GP cover at weekends and late at night – long way to travel for emergency care

Issue 1: lack of minor injuries unit

Possible solutions:

None given

Stakeholders:

Health Authority

Community Safety

Issue 1: Irresponsible parking near to schools

Possible solutions:

Role model for youngsters
More enforcement of offender

Stakeholders:

Police
Community groups
Playgroup
Local school
Local Authority Councillors
Residents
Tenants and Residents Associations
Local Education authority
Parents
SCC

Issue 1: Alcohol related disorder in town centre especially Fri/Sat evenings.

Possible solutions:

Made to pay reparation
More transport to get people home at night more quickly
Use CCTV to ultimate effect
Increased police patrol in evening in High Street when well monitored CCTV in operation
More effective use of pub watch scheme
Raise age to buy alcohol in town

Stakeholders:

Police

Young People
PCT
Pub landlord
Youth Service
Health promotion
Health Authority
SMDC
Town Council

Issue 2: Dog fouling – over all wards (esp Brown Lees & Meadows Way)

Possible solutions:

Bring back dog licences
Neighbourhood Watch
Community Clean Ups would get people active in the street and encourage neighbourhood pride
Dog bins

Stakeholders:

District Council
Town Council
Residents Groups
Police
Retired people
Environmental Health

Economy and Sustainability

Issue 1: Gateways

Possible solutions:

Better links with Biddulph Grange Gardens – coach parking for visitors to the NT property
Ensure links between Sainsbury's and town centre via signage
Use local labour (where possible) with construction site and maintenance
Improve eyesore areas quickly before the demolition starts – ie the Co-op steps and former shop at Tunstall Road?
Link Sainsbury's recruitment with Job Centre Plus and JET

Stakeholders:

SMDC
PCT
Town Council
County Council

Issue 1: Parking – on High Street causing congestion

Possible solutions:

Prohibit construction traffic from the High Street
Free car parking during the construction works

Stakeholders:

Local Authority Councillors
Police
Environmental Health
Residents
Local Shops
Local Employers

Issue 1: Buses in town centre causing congestion

Possible solutions:

Better warden control to stop bottlenecks

Stakeholders:

Bus companies – Bakers and First Bus
Town Council
SMDC
SCC

The next step would be for the chairs of each Forum to discuss the priority issues as decided above with stakeholders and take the outcome forwards to the next round of meetings. (Forum attendees to receive information on the prioritisation.)

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.