

Neighbourhood Plan – Education & Young People

Notes of a meeting of the **Topic Group-Education & Young People** held on the **20th March 2017** at **2pm** in the Town Council Chamber: -

Present: Cllr S Matthews (Chairman), Mrs J Anscombe (Vice-Chairman), Sister Francis, Cllr P Darby.

NP Consultant: Mr R Morfey
Deputy Town Clerk: Mrs C Smith
Admin Assistant: Ms K Furnass

1. Apologies

Mrs S Palmer

2. Introductions & Welcome

Roger Morfey (Planning Consultant) gave a brief overview of the Topic Groups and how they work. How they would gather information to pass onto the Steering Group.

The idea is to build up a plan of how they would like to see Swaffham at the end of the 20yr period. A planning exercise of land use, infrastructure and social needs.

Where to start; the most obvious starting point is pre-school, then through schools, careers, social groups, travel, jobs, young families, how these are all supported. How to build this into land use, planning?

A case study of how a topic can be fed into the N Plan is to be posted on the Town Council's web site.

3. Discussion points

- Buildings that could be utilised for multi-use. The Drill Hall, Leisure Centre, Assembly Rooms, Community Centre, The Convent, Stanleys. The group are asked to supply the Chairman and Deputy Clerk with a list of buildings and how they envisage them being used.
- What are these buildings being used for now and how can they be utilised?
- Can the N Plan achieve anything? It is a Statutory Right, it is legally binding, it is within the Localism Act. If adopted the N Plan must be taken into account.
- Important to have evidence of proof of needs.
- Jobs Fair, apprenticeships; Roger Morfey to look into associated web sites for the next meeting
- Links to companies offering apprenticeships; Sister Francis will also provide information on this
- Government funded nursery places. There is a serious need for more in the area.

4. Objectives

- To look at the bigger picture, which way do the group think that Swaffham should expand? Is West the best option? North Norfolk is also very important with the A47 playing a major part. Take into consideration places like Cambridge, their property prices, work availability in relation to London. We are central to Norfolk, could this bring more residents and businesses to Swaffham? Would this be a direction for Swaffham to follow, would the group want to see these sorts of changes?
- Information on school admittance numbers, predicted growth. A report from Chris Hey (Sister Francis to provide her report for the next meeting).
- To find out what art's, music & culture facilities are available in Swaffham.
- Information point - all-encompassing web site for groups to access information (Sally Palmer to arrange a questionnaire)

A report from Cllr S Matthews as Appendix 1.

5. Summary:

Some topics had already been talked through at an informal meeting previously held so an idea of the basic structure was beginning to take form. Information gathering has been allocated to the appropriate group members. At this stage information about school numbers, growth of admissions and pre-school places is a major part of the process. Meetings will also be arranged with the youths through the Schools and the Community Centre with feed back to the group.

When all the information has been gathered, the group can start to think about how to use the information in the process of the N Plan.

6. Date of Next Meetings:

- Thursday 20th April 2pm, Town Hall

Meeting closed at 3.20pm

YOUTH AND EDUCATION REPORT

YOUTH

Sally Palmer, our Youth Worker in Swaffham, is involving the youth at the Youth Club in our project as they have already started a project looking at what is available in the area by sending out a Survey Monkey and the Nicholas Hamond Academy is doing a project with the youth to input but in what manner we are not yet sure. Both will report in due course. There are other young people in different areas of society that could be approached and this we will seek to explore at our next meeting on 20th March.

EDUCATION

A meeting was held November 2016, those present being the Heads of all Swaffham Schools including our one Private School (Convent of the Sacred Heart), The Head of Planning and School Organisation of the Local Authority (Chris Hey) and the Director of Education in the Diocese of Norwich (Andy Mash) where it was agreed the most urgent problem facing us was the lack of places for pre-school children. This month, (March 17) both Pre-schools reported having waiting lists, one of 30 and the other 43. This is inadequate and unacceptable. Chris Hey noted the concerns and agreed to highlight the issues with the feedback coming back to elected members. There has been no feedback so far. It was felt places for other ages was manageable but needed an eye to be kept on the position as the new housing allocation was being developed in the years ahead.

From the comments made by the public at our Consultation Evening, mentioned was the lack of Sports facilities meaning gymnastics and athletics plus everything else apart from Rugby, Football and Cricket as these Clubs are well established with the former two needing more space. Facilities such as these all are needed as the percentage of our young people who are obese is amongst the highest percentage in the County. Transport will of course be a problem for those students living in the surrounding villages for extra out-of-school activity.

Our secondary education pupils need to be made aware of the different types of employment available and research by the Educators would be invaluable in this direction from the point of view of teaching the correct subjects as well as encouraging a vision for the pupils. At the moment, there is insufficient variety locally other than the variety offered by the RAF at Marham and the Army at Swanton Morley. An asset in town for those interested in a services lifestyle is an Army and an RAF Group in our Drill Hall. It is interesting to note too that the Academy is imminently to run a Prince's Trust service.