

Dinnington St John's Draft Neighbourhood Plan – Key outcomes from community consultation 'drop-in' events held on 8 and 9 December 2017

DINNINGTON ST JOHN'S TOWN COUNCIL (DECEMBER 2017)

1.0 Background

Dinnington Town Council undertook to hold two community consultation ‘drop-in’ events about the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. These took place on Friday 8 December 2017 (between 10.00 and 4.00pm) and Saturday 9 December 2017 (between 10.00am and 12.30pm). Both were held at the Lyric Theatre in the centre of Dinnington. These times and days were purposefully selected to maximise interest and attendance by residents as well as other interested bodies and individuals. They span, for example, both normal and normal working hours.

2.0 Purpose of the Event

The main purposes of the event were four-fold:

- To provide information on what was involved in preparing a neighbourhood plan.
- To update the community and other interested partners on progress with the Plan.
- To seek feedback on the emerging vision, objectives and policy aims of the Plan.
- To find about more how people could be involved.

3.0 How the event was publicised

This event was widely published through the Parish and the surrounding area. This included through:

- A leaflet was prepared which was delivered by Dinnington St John’s Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group members to all households in the Parish.
- Town Council Web-Site.
- E-mails to interested bodies such as local business and Borough councillors.
- Social Media, including the local FaceBook site.
- Town Council and other meetings, including the local Dinnington Town Centre Business Forum.
- Town Councillors and Steering Group members promoted the event.
- Word of mouth.

An example of one of the means of how the event was publicised is shown at Appendix 1

4.0 Format of the Event

People attending were met by members of the Steering Group on arrival. They were asked to sign in, and the format of the event was explained to them.

Several display boards were made available to view. Each focused on a different emerging theme of the Plan, including:

- Housing
- Businesses and employment
- Natural Environment
- Built Environment
- Housing
- Shops and the Town Centre
- Traffic and Transport.

In addition, a short presentation was available to view. This explained more about the neighbourhood plan process, the context for the Plan and the aims of the Plan. This was delivered through a short power presentation on a loop system which was projected on to a screen.

Prior to departing, attendees were asked to complete a short questionnaire about the day as well as the Plan and its emerging priorities.

Tea, coffee and mince pies were offered to all those attending.

5. Key Outcomes

The event was well received. Over 100 people attended. These mainly comprised local residents, but also local ward councillors, local business people and developers.

There was general support for the principle of developing the Plan and the identified key issues it could seek to address.

Of the attendees who completed the questionnaire

- When asked 'How useful did you find the feedback day' - the most popular response of the 39 people who responded to this question was highly satisfied followed by satisfied. The average score for the question was 3.4 based on a rating of 1 being low/poor rising to 4 for being highly satisfied.
- When asked 'How well did the day increase your understanding of the need for a Neighbourhood Plan for the area' again the most popular response was highly satisfied and satisfied. The average score for the question was 3.5 based on a rating of 1 being low/poor rising to 4 for being highly satisfied. 59 people responded to this question.
- 100% of the 50 respondents agreed 'that Dinnington will benefit from a Neighbourhood Plan'.
- When asked 'below are a range of areas/items that the Neighbourhood Plan would like to address. Could you please rate your feelings on the current position of these areas in relation to Dinnington' the areas respondents were most satisfied with (ranked) where the provision of parks and open spaces in the area; Level of local transport links and infrastructure required to meet future needs and the continued protection of greenbelt land and green spaces in the area. The areas respondents were least satisfied with where adequacy of local facilities for young people in the area; maintenance of the current road and kerb conditions and level of local transport links and infrastructure required to meet future needs (again ranked). Between 61 and 66 people responded to these questions.
- It should be noted that of the 13 areas which respondents were asked give their feelings the most popular response for 10 was 1, i.e. low/poor levels of satisfaction. Of the remaining 3 areas each scored 2 based on a rating of 1 being low/poor rising to 4 for being highly satisfied.
- When asked 'If you wish to make any further comments on any of the above items', a wide range of views were expressed. Several respondents highlighted specific areas of improvements such as better roads, a greater variety of shops and the need to protect greenfield. A prominent theme was the need for better leisure facilities, as a good example of this was "More leisure facilities required eg leisure centre, activities for young people/teenagers".