

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MEETING

ISSUES WORKSHOP – 15TH APRIL 2014

Present : John Walmsley, Lynne Porter, Geoff Curry, Diana Matthews, Roger Park, Richard Matthews, Kate Brunskill, Alan Joyce, Colin Darlington, Anne Darlington, Ian Willock, Christine Mercer, Stephen Mercer, Liz Davey, Nigel Davey, Sophie Denton, Joan Haworth, Cathy Holmes, Stephen Davenport, George Brookes, Liz Moorhouse, Andrew Shaw, David Haworth, Paul Levet, Jonathan Dickinson, Eddie White, Joan Porter, Neil Guthrie, Paul Wilson, Jeremy Collins, Martyn Bishop, Chris Bosonnet, Helen Tomlinson, Lynda Holt, David Holt?
34 Attendees.

Introduction by John Walmsley. What would we like to see going into our Neighbourhood Plan. This is the first Pilot Workshop and there may be more at a later stage.
The room is split into 5 groups to work together.

OVERALL AIM - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of our Neighbourhood Plan is to provide a plan for growth in Bolton by Bowland and Gisburn Forest which is sufficient to preserve and enhance the traditional character and lifestyle of our communities.

MIRACLE BOX

Question put to everyone as individuals: what is the one thing you would make happen in our patch. Suggestions collected by John who will collate into a list for later action.

Group discussions followed on what is good in our community. List Key Action Points to preserve.

Also discuss what is that is not so good and list Key Action points to change things.

1st Group:

What is good?

Community spirit:- Cricket, Drama
Natural environment
School, Pub, locality, attractiveness / unspoilt
Recreation space
Church
Accessibility by car

Key Action Points to preserve:

Sustain population – new entrants Employment opportunities
New housing in appropriate places
Better roads and more footpaths
Good electronic communications

What is not good?

Bus services
Mobile phone services
Electronic communications
Roads
Gas services
Shortage of affordable housing
Younger generation
Local shopping

Key Action Points to change things

Bus service
Mobile coverage
Improved broadband
Improved roads
Gas services
Available affordable housing

2nd Group:

What is good?

Good social community
School
Wild life
Tranquillity
Historical character
Church
Village Hall

Action Points

Small quantity of selective housing
Fibre optic communications
Focus on community actions
Church - School - Shop - Cricket Club
Maintain historical parts
Encourage capability of school

What is not good?

Ageing population

Shop

Lack of good broadband

Loss of school (Tosside)

‘Think about Bolton by Bowland’

Lack of public transport

Action Points

Review and address age balance in community

Big drive on fibre optic

Big drive on and for routine public transport

Liaise / support School Governors to encourage growth

3rd Group :

What is Good

Sense of community – Village hall, Church, Pub, Cricket Club & other clubs

Honey pot Village

Idyllic environment (countryside)

Thriving School

Developments undertaken to date in keeping with its history (no eye sores)

Key Action Points to preserve:

Preserve all the above

Greater involvement

Promote tourism and support the local businesses

Attract younger families into the village

Provide a team of first responders to help the Community (us older ones!)

Local community listing, e.g. if a pub, must remain a pub

What is not so good?

Transport services – bus access, etc.

Broadband not so good

No mains gas

Age profile – towards the older generation

No playground

This workshop is short of a younger profile (this plan is for the next generation)

Immediate Health Responder

Key Action Points to change things

Section 106 Agreement – key contribution points to be indicated by the N.P.
To present the NP to the School to gain a younger opinion of their aspirations (Parents)
Present to Young Farmers – as above
Look at options for providing transport, e.g. car share
Canvas view of residents in regard to faster broadband
Local subscriptions to fund playground, etc.

4th Group :

What is Good

Traditional character of the village
Countryside
School/Church/Village hall, Cricket Pitch/Sport
Friendly people (mainly!)
Good cross section of organisations

Key Action Points to preserve

Strict Planning constraints with input
Consideration of situation of new housing
Maintain Village Green, etc.

What is not so Good

Shop essentials
Public transport
Pub – Car parking
Cars, etc. speed
Lack of young people
Affordance housing for young
No sheltered housing for old
Playground / bowling green
Too much traffic

Key Action Points to change things

Speed restrictions
Young / Old housing + entertainment (no one arm bandits!!)
Post Office
Transport
Discreet village car park
Set aside part of cricket ground for play area

5th Group :

Purpose :

Character / not traditional – character, e.g. school

++ applies to affordable housing

Jobs ? Housing nearby ? Infill – character

What is Good

Caring community

Village Shop

Pubs

Church

Beautiful area – not isolated – M roads, etc, cities

Low density housing

Village Hall

Different character of villages

No wind turbines – windmills

A.O.N.B.

Village school, High school – farming included

Action Points

Schools – young families – affordable housing

Development plan to preserve beauty of area and enhance it

Future housing – low density not estates

Employment created to give a living wage + prospects

Communications improved – Broadband, roads, bus routes

What is not so Good

Lack of public transport

Cyclists not sensible – not 4 wide

Lack of proper water supply (in some areas)

Not enough young people (all old) !!!

Landscape past best – trees old, etc.

Council used to drain & hedge – roadside maintenance

Inappropriate commercial development

Roads not suitable for above and bad driving

On road parking unsuitable for residents, let alone outsider visitors

Action Points

Restrict commercial development to appropriate size and area

Plann in applications – also include detailed landscaping

United Utilities to improve water supply to all areas

All development should be monitored

Following the Group Discussions we re-visited the Overall Aim.
Each group was asked to suggest 2 things about what is good :

- (1) Traditional character of Village
Good cross section of organisations
- (2) School
Tranquillity
- (3) Community spirit
Recreational facilities
- (4) Different communities
Housing low density – no estates
- (5) Honey Pot village
Developments in keeping

Not isolated
Church and Pub
Bowland School

Key points to preserve:

Sustain population with new entrants
Communications
Improve facilities
Planning Rates
Employment – proper wages
Road network
Encourage tourism
Plan for future landscape

What is not so good?

Aging population
No buses
Water
Mains gas
Utilities
Lack of car parking
Speed of traffic
Loss of school in Tosside
Public transport
Shop / Post Office

Electronic communications / mobile phone coverage
Playground
Inappropriate businesses
Affordable housing
Street lighting

Action Points :

Bring Plan to younger generation
Encourage growth /School Governors
Restrict commercial development
Review population
Pressure of service providers
Planning applications / landscaping
Monitor planning in future

Carried forward / connect with everybody in different areas.

Do we think tonight has been worthwhile :-

Process /Format good
Positive attitude
Information to people / use website
Run more meetings
Involve school and organisations, i.e. FOBBS; Young farmers, FANS, etc.
Put points on paper to comment on
Must consult – ask questions
Good process