

REPORT OF MEETING OF CHIPPENHAM COMMUNITY FORUM

WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2004

NWDC OFFICES

CHIPPENHAM

3.30pm and 6.30pm

Report of Chippenham Community Forum Meeting 15th September 2004

Contents

1. Attendance List
2. Introduction
3. Voting on Priorities
4. Afternoon Breakout Groups on Specific Topics
5. Evening Breakout Groups on Specific Topics
6. Items Missing from the Draft Plan

1. Attendance List

Afternoon	Evening
Cllr Christine Crisp	Cllr Christine Crisp
Cllr Nina Phillips	Cllr Richard Watkins
Cllr Desna Allen	Gavin Cook
Cllr Marian Strickland	Sue Austin
Cllr Peter Bailey	Peter Hart
Cllr Nigel Fairley	Bryan Pettifer
Cllr Paul Fox	Rob Parsons
Cllr Dick Barton	
Cllr Sandie Webb	
Cllr Philip Allnatt	
Cllr Ross Henning	
Cllr Andrew Noblet	
Linda Stuart	
John McDonald	
Judy Rooke	
Gail Spence	
Dave Purton	
Carole West	
Laurie Brown	
Pete Smith	
Helie Franklin	
Sarah Findlay-Cobb	

Sessions were facilitated by Michele Lomas and Helen Knight (WCC) and Jo Cogswell, Miranda Gilmour and Mark Rippon (NWDC)

2. Introduction

The afternoon and evening sessions started with an introduction from Councillor Christine Crisp who welcomed everyone to the Forum and gave a background to Community Planning in the Chippenham area. She also explained the wider context of community planning within the North Wiltshire District and within the county of Wiltshire.

Report of Chippenham Community Forum Meeting 15th September 2004

3. Voting on Priorities

Everyone was invited to vote on the importance of each issue in the draft plan. People were asked to vote 1 if the issue was very important, 2 if it was quite important and 3 if it was not important. Here are the results for the afternoon and evening sessions. Below this is a summary in order of importance taking the afternoon and evening sessions together and adding the 1 and 2 votes together.

	AFTERNOON			EVENING		
	1	2	3	1	2	3
COUNTRYSIDE & LAND BASED						
Protect the rural buffer zone	9	8	4	4	1	2
Control building on green field sites	13	6	2	6	1	0
Avoid over development which could threaten the unique nature of the area	12	9	0	4	2	1
Improve recycling facilities in villages	6	11	3	3	2	2
Improve public access to river	10	10	0	2	3	2
Improve signage at river	6	9	5	1	2	4
Promote use of the river	11	7	2	2	4	1
EDUCATION						
Maintain Village Schools	13	6	2	5	1	1
Provide access to broadband computers and education through Smartplace project	9	10	2	3	4	0
CULTURE AND LEISURE						
Provide improved outdoor sports facilities & playing fields	17	5	0	3	1	3
More leisure facilities for young people	18	1	1	6	1	0
Provide a ten pin bowling alley	9	3	9	1	5	1
Provide a theatre	5	11	4	2	4	1
Provide a multiplex	9	5	7	4	2	1
More community halls are needed	7	6	8	1	4	2
CRIME						
Tackle drug & alcohol problems in the area	16	3	1	5	0	2
Graffiti – look at ways to discourage this	4	12	3	2	4	1
Litter and chewing gum – provide more bins and clean the streets more often	7	10	3	3	4	0
Police – provide a greater police presence (particularly in rural areas)	13	4	2	3	4	0
Resolve dog fouling issues	1	8	11	2	1	4
CCTV – increase hours and area covered	6	11	3	0	4	3
Fear of Crime	5	11	2	2	5	0
THE ECONOMY						
Attract a wider range of shops into Chippenham	9	7	1	2	1	3
Maintain and encourage shops in rural areas	10	6	3	2	3	1
Ensure village shops provide a focal point for the local community	7	6	6	1	3	1
Maintain and encourage village post offices	9	7	3	6	0	0
Secure the future of the main post office in Chippenham	18	1	1	3	2	1
HOUSING & BUILT ENVIRONMENT						
Schools in new developments	10	6	1	4	2	1
Play areas in Cepen Park and Patchway	14	6	0	1	5	1
Provide increased social housing	13	7	0	0	6	1
Provide more low cost housing	16	4	1	3	3	1

Report of Chippenham Community Forum Meeting 15th September 2004

Encourage mixed tenure	6	10	4	1	2	4
Increased funding for maintenance of village halls	4	11	6	3	3	1
Improve Ivy Lane Subway	10	4	5	0	5	2
TRANSPORT						
Provide better bus services, particularly in rural areas	17	1	1	3	2	2
Provide services from rural areas at evenings and weekends	15	3	1	4	1	2
Improve the concessionary fare scheme	3	10	7	2	2	3
Consider smaller buses for rural areas	10	8	2	3	3	1
Improve bus shelters	6	9	5	3	0	4
Improve waiting facilities for coaches in Chippenham	7	7	6	1	3	3
Resolve access/egress problems at Borough Parade	20	1	0	6	1	0
Provide more free car parking in Chippenham Town Centre	15	5	0	6	1	0
Encourage more considerate parking near school entrances	15	3	3	2	5	0
Impose speed limits in villages & police them	6	12	2	5	1	1
Introduce weight restrictions and restrict access for lorries	8	8	4	5	0	2
Improve maintenance of roads – repair potholes etc.	11	9	1	1	5	1
Improve cycleways and footpaths in villages	4	12	3	2	2	3
Reduce bridleways crossing footpaths where possible	0	1	18	0	0	7
Replace kerbs with ramps to assist invalid chairs and push chairs	16	5	0	3	4	0
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE						
Provide more NHS dentists in the area	20	1	0	6	1	0
Make provision for facilities in new developments	14	7	0	4	2	1
Ensure that housing association tenants do not feel excluded	15	5	0	3	3	0

Summary of afternoon and evening responses 1 & 2 by theme.

COUNTRYSIDE & LAND BASED	TOTAL 1 & 2
Avoid over development which could threaten the unique nature of the area	27
Control building on green field sites	26
Improve public access to river	25
Promote use of the river	24
Protect the rural buffer zone	22
Improve recycling facilities in villages	22
Improve signage at river	18
EDUCATION	
Provide access to broadband computers and education through Smartplace project	26
Maintain Village Schools	25
CULTURE AND LEISURE	
Provide improved outdoor sports facilities & playing fields	26
More leisure facilities for young people	26
Provide a theatre	22
Provide a multiplex	20
Provide a ten pin bowling alley	18
More community halls are needed	18

Report of Chippenham Community Forum Meeting 15th September 2004

CRIME	
Tackle drug & alcohol problems in the area	24
Litter and chewing gum – provide more bins and clean the streets more often	24
Police – provide a greater police presence (particularly in rural areas)	24
Fear of Crime	23
Graffiti – look at ways to discourage this	22
CCTV – increase hours and area covered	21
Resolve dog fouling issues	12
THE ECONOMY	
Secure the future of the main post office in Chippenham	24
Maintain and encourage village post offices	22
Maintain and encourage shops in rural areas	21
Attract a wider range of shops into Chippenham	19
Ensure village shops provide a focal point for the local community	17
HOUSING & BUILT ENVIRONMENT	
Play areas in Cepen Park and Patchway	26
Provide increased social housing	26
Provide more low cost housing	26
Schools in new developments	22
Increased funding for maintenance of village halls	21
Encourage mixed tenure	19
Improve Ivy Lane Subway	19
TRANSPORT	
Resolve access/egress problems at Borough Parade	28
Replace kerbs with ramps to assist invalid chairs and push chairs	28
Provide more free car parking in Chippenham Town Centre	27
Improve maintenance of roads – repair potholes etc.	26
Encourage more considerate parking near school entrances	25
Consider smaller buses for rural areas	24
Impose speed limits in villages & police them	24
Provide better bus services, particularly in rural areas	23
Provide services from rural areas at evenings and weekends	23
Introduce weight restrictions and restrict access for lorries	21
Improve cycleways and footpaths in villages	20
Improve bus shelters	18
Improve waiting facilities for coaches in Chippenham	18
Improve the concessionary fare scheme	17
Reduce bridleways crossing footpaths where possible	1
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	
Provide more NHS dentists in the area	28
Make provision for facilities in new developments	27
Ensure that housing association tenants do not feel excluded	26

4. Summary of Afternoon Workshops on Specific Topics

4.1 Land Based/Countryside

- Rural zone
 - Sensible, sympathetic planning
- Greenfield sites
 - Sensible, sympathetic planning
- Recognising need
 - low cost
 - affordable
 - Motivated by Sustainable/shops/workplace
- Overdevelopment
 - Protect rural buffers but still meet local NEED
- Strike balance
 - not to be dictated by Government Policy, should be local policy
- River
 - major asset to county
 - should be made accessible
 - rural as well as urban
 - Revisit River Green Projects
 - Path from Chippenham to Malmesbury along river for starter

4.2 Education/Culture and Leisure

- Improve Playing Fields
- Include other activities – skateboard, archery, basketball etc.
- Connect into cycleways (which need to be improved)
- Wiggly bus availability
 - Remove dangers - speed
 - Needs to be in the plan
- Leisure:
 - Multiplex, ten-pin bowling created around Bath Road car park and Bridge Centre
 - Work with partner to create by 2006
 - Look at working closely with schools – use their facilities
 - Use of Olympiad etc to provide facilities in the near future
 - Neeld/Town Hall (expensive!!)
 - Villages use Town facilities but no transport so cars (e.g. Abbey School)
- Village Schools
- Satellite Libraries (Cepen Park, Pewsham etc)
- Broadband – Improve publicity
- Expand Adult Education including Culture (Jazz, Classical etc)
- Play areas – Including Skate parks, BMX areas
 - All councils to co-operate (town, district, county)
 - Where – survey of need – access, location, need of population

4.3 Crime

- Limited resources.
- PCSO's (Police support officers) are being increased therefore reduce fear of crime. Visible on streets (from October 04)
- (Combination of additional Police resources and T.C buy in)
- Police to profile Chippenham area to see what additional resources in an ideal world they require. (tasking co-ordinating, allocate PCT's/PCSO's)
- Having someone who has time to build up relationships
- Drinking on streets/drunks
- Underage drinking!
- Leads to Anti Social Behaviour

- Work with other Agencies i.e. Reach out
- Liaise with Police as to when or if an AE2 should be introduced and where
- Liaise with WCC Trading Standards selling to under age children.
- Reach out

4.4 Health & Social Care

- NHS Dentist - Research on numbers/population
 - Primary Care Trust (PCT) involvement/Health
 - National issue Need is now. Government
- Doctor/Dentist - Infrastructure before Planning Permission
 - Policy – Consultation
- Large Housing Development shouldn't be built without adequate planning for Social Infrastructure. Medical/Schooling/Transport
- Social Exclusion – within our policies already

4.5 Transport

- Resolve access/egress problems at Borough Parade by erecting a 'No Right Turn' sign at exit to car park – those wanting to turn right turn left and go around the roundabout (by June 2005). This is a simple quick win
- What is the requirement for more car parking in Chippenham town centre?
- What is the town centre?
- Where is the real estate?
- We believe that this is not achievable – maybe alternatives should be considered e.g. park and ride – even this may not be financially viable, can we afford subsidy
- Rural bus service – you need to identify who requires the service, when and why. Buses will need to make profit, they will need convincing of profitability in changing service

4.6 The Economy

- Chippenham Main Post Office
 - Planning – block change of use through planning process. NWDC Charles Prescott.
 - Conservation Area – wider consultation required ? Who – community & development department – Julian Kashlan-Brown
 - Central Government (lobbying) re. Withdrawal of post office facilities
- Pewsham Post Office

4.7 Housing & Built Environment

- Social housing/low cost housing
 - 492 units/households on housing needs register – Westlea HA
 - Linked furnishing needs
 - NWDC – expensive – lobby Office of Deputy Prime Minister – South West

5. Summary of Evening Workshops on Specific Topics

5.1 Health

- Lack of NHS dentists – national shortage
- Medical provision needs to increase in line with new housing developments that are being built
- Local education on what dental options are available, private dental care, just paying etc.

Crime and Drugs

- Keeping young people occupied and away from drugs and crime

5.2 Transport

- Speed limits in villages – Grittleton, Castle Coombe, Burton, the Gibb, Stanton St Quintin, Sutton Benger, Yatton Keynall, Langley Burrell, Kington Langley
- Speed with which people enter villages. Speed indicator devices are effective – consider use of a mobile one on a temporary basis
- Transition into the lower speed limits and enforcement of the lower speed limits
- Traffic calming measures (physical)
- Lights at the Zebra crossing on Hungerdown Lane
- 20mph zone around schools

6. Missing or Other Issues

6.1 Afternoon Missing/Other Issues

HOW DO YOU ABSORB OTHER PLANS e.g. village plans, school transport plans?

HOW DO YOU RESOLVE CONFLICTING PRIORITIES IN ACTION PLANS e.g. maintain village schools whilst restricting development?

6.2 Evening Missing/Other Issues

- Dual carriageway in front of the golf club filters to a single lane where the traffic backs up. Could the 2 lanes continue?
Related to wider infrastructure issues, is there scope to widen the western bypass to a dual carriageway
- No room for an eastern bypass (Kington Langley and Langley Burrell) but speeding traffic through villages at rush hour is a problem
- Concerns over proposals to expand Morrisons
- Action both planned and responsive by local authorities to meet community identified priorities
- Support and advice for voluntary and community groups to enable local solutions to be explored and knowledge gained (funding etc.)