

Leicester Forest East Community Consultation



10 September 2016

Summary

Introduction

Yourlocale was commissioned by Leicester Forest East Parish Council to assist the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (LFENPAC) in the delivery of a drop-in event on Neighbourhood Planning on 10 September 2016. The event took place between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm at the Parish Hall.

The aim of this event was to help engage the community in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and to seek comments on the emerging topics – including Local Green Space and environment; community facilities and amenities; housing and design; and employment. It was hoped that interest would be generated amongst the community for involvement in the Theme Group process which is to be established in the coming weeks to consider the detail of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The drop-in event was promoted in a variety of ways:

- ✓ Advertised in the Parish Magazine
- ✓ Leaflets were produced promoting the event and delivered to each household.
- ✓ Members of the LFENPAC spoke to local people to inform them of the event and to encourage attendance.

A total of 18 people signed the attendance sheet.

Format of Event

Members of the LFENPAC welcomed attendees on arrival and asked them to complete a contact sheet to record attendance. The arrangements for the Open event were explained.

The first displays introduced Neighbourhood Planning and described the process that is being followed by LFENPAC on behalf of the Leicester Forest East Parish Council. Copies of explanatory booklets were available on the display stands.

Copies of finalised Neighbourhood Plans were available for people to read as they walked around the displays.

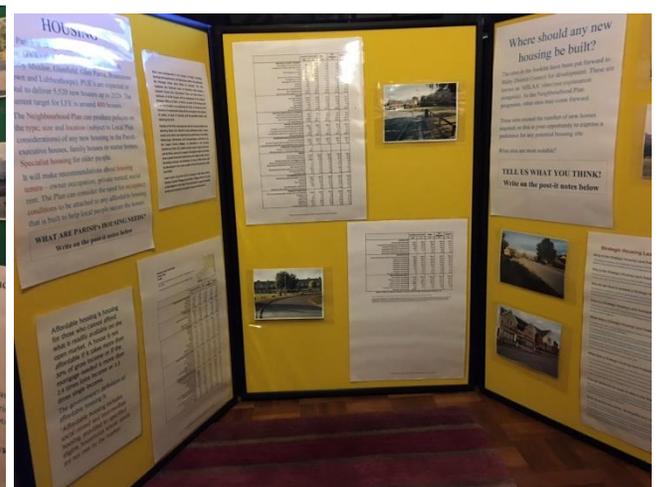
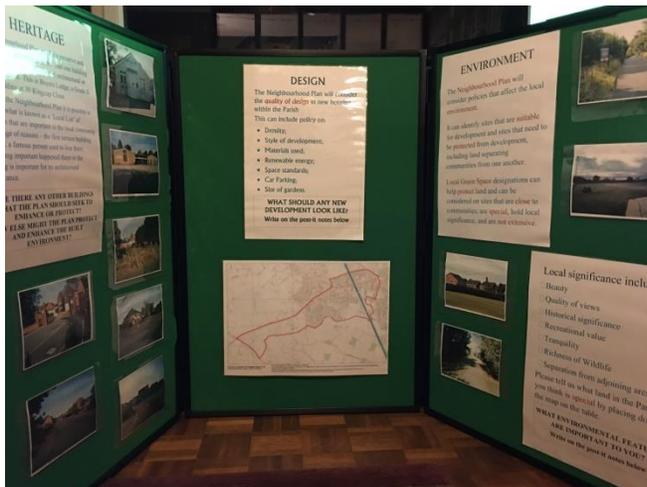
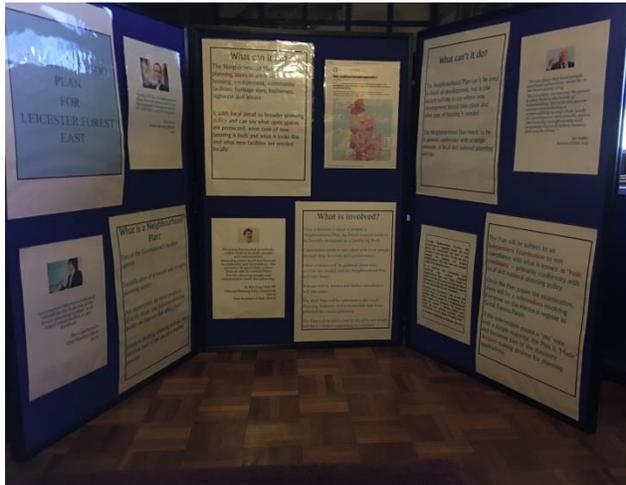
Large maps of the Parish were available within the room for people to consider.

Consultation on key issues

A series of display boards were spread across the room, each of which focused on a different topic related to planning and development, including:

- ✓ Housing – housing mix, design and heritage
- ✓ Environment – existing designations and Local Green Space criteria
- ✓ Transport , Businesses and Employment
- ✓ Community Facilities and amenities

Display Boards



Having read the displays, attendees were asked to comment on each topic using post-it notes and to place them on flip-chart paper alongside each display.

A large map of the Parish was available and people were invited to place up to 3 blue dots on areas of recreation and up to 3 green dots in places enjoying good views.

A further map offered participants the opportunity to mark areas within the Parish that they wish to see protected from development and areas that may be suitable for development.

The following is a record of each of the comments made:

Access and Highways

- The number of accidents on the A47 around Sainsburys/Kings Drive is way too high and many more than the police statistics as many are not recorded. Last one witnessed at Kings Drive was just last week. The pedestrian crossing barriers have had to be replaced twice which is very worrying as a serious injury to pedestrians, children or residents of VISTA Care home is more than likely. If the old Booze Buster store is reopened this could add to the list
- The number of houses which will be built in the next few years will only make the traffic flow worse than ever
- Ensure slip road (to be used by park and ride buses from Lubbesthorpe) is ONLY used for buses
- Traffic lights outside Sainsburys....people leave the car park at Sainsburys, look right for oncoming traffic...then turn left when lights say stop and people have started to cross
- The amount of traffic: check parking at Hambleton Close – very congested
- The amount of traffic on our local roads is too much now, so very worried when the new Lubbesthorpe development is complete
- A47 between Kings Drive and the Kirby Lane turn off: there have been several accidents along this stretch (onto A47) since we moved in 5 years ago. Needs looking at! I am worried about the effects of all the extra traffic once the Lubbesthorpe development is inhabited
- Kings Drive: very congested with parked cars
- When a path is needed for both cyclists and pedestrians – it needs to be wide enough to accommodate 2 people side by side and needs identifying as being a shared space
- The cycle path along Hinckley Rd is not safe for teenagers who cycle from one end of LFE to the other – so they have to cycle on pavements and often makes it difficult for pedestrians – could we not have used some grass verge to create a cycle way if it did mean crossing the Hinckley Rd at pedestrian lights

Housing

- We are now surrounded by new housing! Where exactly do you consider a suitable place for any more? We were not allowed any real say in the huge development which is now being inflicted on the area.
- As the population grows older, make provision for housing for the elderly
- Houses originally built for one car families – now 4-5 cars outside homes including large vans. Vans should not be in residential areas. Local space should be allowed for these to park.

- If additional housing is required, then the preference would be to retain as much green space around the village's existing development as possible. This leaves the area around Desford crossroads?
- Housing Design – there were no comments
- Heritage
- Old Library – Holmfield East + 1 in agreement
- Forest House Motor Co. (Art Deco style; beautiful art deco building – could be lovely!), Hinckley Rd – + 2 in agreement
- Red Cow pub (old coaching inn) – + 1 in agreement (note: not in Parish)

The 'dots' exercise produced the following results, green dots reflecting where people feel that new housing would be suitably located and orange dots where housing was not wanted.



Environment

- Low noise surface on M1
- Community Facilities
- Wooden fence along Chapel Green (alongside Spider Park) needs to be maintained in its current format
- The library is often not manned at the times it is supposed to be manned. I appreciate that it is run by volunteers these days but I think this should change. 1 other person agreed with this.

- The old garage at A47/Kirby Lane is a historic building and should be retained but not sure of a suitable use.
- I have heard rumours that the empty shop below Barnetts Hair Salon will become a kebabshop/takeaway. I don't believe we need another fast food outlet – it will create late night noise and litter
- Walkway between Hobill Close and new estate – what's to stop people parking in Hobill Close and using footpath to their house

The 'dots' exercise required respondents to place blue dots in open spaces valued for recreation and green dots where there are good views. Results were as follows.



Employment

No comments

Developer Contributions

- Developers should as part of their negotiations with the District Council include negotiations/discussions with Parish Councils re S. 106 monies
- Buildings left empty (Booze Busters, and garage on Hinckley Rd) need redeveloping
- The old garage on the corner of Hinckley Rd/Kirby Lane is an eyesore now it is no longer a business – can pressure be put on the owners to do something about it!?

Anything Else?

- The local wildlife environment will have been almost completely destroyed in the development
- More community encouragement required to care for the area to make it cleaner and blooming with more flower tubs
- Hambleton Close requires lighting to be left on much longer. Seymour way has 2 lights on so one could be turned off – not costing more money if light on in Hambleton Close for more hours through the night
- Trees in the corner of Spider Park near Chapel Green Rd need pruning, toppings thinning out, tidying up
- Dog dirt has been made an issue but cats are also a problem. Owners should be advised to use litter trays
- The Forest Motor Company building is falling into disrepair. I think it needs to be retained as it's a building of interest – not sure what its use could be, but it should be a business – not a Tesco mind!

Summary of findings

Comments were made which reflected a range of opinions. However, attendees demonstrated a consistency of opinion in some key areas:

Housing

Out of a total of 4 combined comments on the Housing section there emerged no real consensus but individual comments highlighting the need for any additional housing to meet the needs of elderly residents and sufficient car parking spaces whilst retaining as much green space as possible.

Heritage

2 respondents cited the Old Library in Holmfield East; while 3 people referred to the art deco building housing the Forest House Motor Company. A further 2 highlighted the Red Cow pub as being of significance in terms of local heritage, although it is in fact in the Kirby Muxloe Parish.

Community Facilities

6 comments were made in total in this section, with 2 people wishing to see the library staffed for all the hours stated, and another again highlighting the FH Motor Company garage building as needing to be retained, but unsure in what way.

Access and Highways

This section attracted the largest number of responses – 10. In the case of any additional development, the three themes were: the potential for levels of RTAs to increase, especially in the A47 Kings Drive/Sainsbury's area; road traffic congestion becoming greater, with Kings Drive and Hambleton Close in particular being named; the need for safer cycle paths.

Environment

There was a single response to the environmental displays. Respondent stated: "low surface noise on M1"

Anything Else?

The desire for the art deco Forest Motor Company building to be repaired and retained as a building of interest was reiterated by one person. 3 comments related to various aspects of the wish for the area to be cleaner and tidier in terms of pet fouling, tree tidying in Spider Park and more flower tubs. One general statement expressed concern that a recent development destroyed the local wildlife environment, and a specific comment was made about the need for longer hours of lighting on Hambleton Close.



