

Summary list of consultation

Area wide residents survey

During June – July 2015 an area wide residents survey was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group workshops

So that the consultant team could begin to understand the area, a series of fact-finding Steering Group workshops took place during the early part of 2018. The workshops explored topic-based subjects and provided an opportunity for the Steering Group to review and identify key issues.

Public exhibition – summer 2018

LRM Planning and Clifton Emery design were commissioned during the early part of 2018 to advise the Steering Group on moving the Neighbourhood Plan forward. The Steering Group decided to develop a Vision for the area in the first instance and that this would underpin the formal Neighbourhood Plan document.

The process began with a guided visit, meetings with key members and a series of topic-based workshop sessions in the town hall to identify issues and opportunities. This work; underpinned by the earlier town wide residents survey, formed the basis of a public exhibition that took place during the summer of 2018. This included a static unmanned exhibition and two manned events. The exhibition material was available to be viewed on-line and on social media. The consultation sought to clarify the key issues for the community - it was attended by over 150 people.

Stakeholder sessions

As well as group events, workshops and town wide consultations, stakeholder meetings have taken place with individuals who represent important groups and organisations within the area. These have been important for 'drilling down' in greater detail in relation to certain issues.

Housing and Employment Sub-Group

One of the most difficult challenges for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been to review issues around housing and employment growth as part of the Vision and subsequently the Neighbourhood Plan. Perhaps more than any other issue, the future of housing in the area is subject to differences in opinion.

In order to tackle housing issues objectively, a Housing and Employment Sub-Group of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was established. This group met regularly during the development of the Vision in order to forge a Vision for housing and employment in the area as an integral part of the overall Vision.

Transport Sub-Group

Early consultation work including the town wide survey identified that there are many transport issues that are of concern to the local community. In response to this, a Transport Sub-Group of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was formed to identify specific issues that require attention in the Vision and Neighbourhood Plan.

Public exhibition – 2019-20

Following extensive consultation and review, a static exhibition illustrating the draft Vision was housed at the town hall through December 2019 and throughout January 2020. This was supported by two manned exhibitions in the town hall on Monday January 6th and Saturday January 11th 2020. The exhibition material was also available for review on-line and through social media. About 40 people visited the manned exhibitions. Attendees were invited to provide written feedback to the draft Vision.