

## **Debenham Neighbourhood Plan Presentation Evening - Public Comments**

### **1) What's Good About The Village?**

*'Everything.....!'*

*'The amenity balance....great shops, the leisure centre and the environmental and historic heritage values protected. Love it!'*

*'Debenham is a nice place to live - we are lucky - don't spoil it.....Look at Framlingham - Mill site....it could happen here!'*

*'The Vanilla Bakehouse!'*

*'A community that cares! Great schools, the Leisure Centre, Pubs.....(Restore The Angel!)*

*'Village facilities including the shops, pubs, and businesses. A wonderful community.'*

*'Been here 31 years, lovely village, good schools, good shops, good people.'*

*'A sense of community.....friendly.'*

### **2) What's Not So Good?**

*'Parking...Low Road, restrictive for residents and road users alike. Parking on grassed areas - Andrews Close, Gardeners Road etc...it's untidy, unnecessary - action relatively easy to take.'*

*'A review of parking in the village - an additional car park, 1 to 2 hour restricted spaces, and enforcement. People parking in front of dropped curbs!'*

*'Parking is a problem, needs more space.'*

*'Speed of traffic....lorries risking our lives on the school run!'*

*'State of pavements is poor especially near the bus shelter, and overgrown bushes and hedges covering walkways, and pavements.'*

*'Playground - or rather lack of it....other villages put Debenham to shame.'*

*'Parking outside Coopersfield at school times.....somebody will get hurt here.'*

*'Parish Councillors who have their own agendas rather than representing the views of the village (none of whom are here tonight).'*

*'Low Road, outside the doctors - the parking is atrocious!'*

*'No enforcement on vehicles parked on pavement outside the chip shop.'*

*'Parking, dog poop, no skatepark and parking (lack of!)*

*'More social housing needed.'*

*'Parking at the bottom of Gracechurch Street, in Low Road and the a High Street, busses using Gracechurch Street to go to the school.'*

*'Doctors surgery needs a purpose built building (look at Stow Health as a good model)'*

*'Dog poo!*

### **3). What are your hopes?**

*'Re-instating the bus service to Stowmarket*

*'That each and every new building be compelled to have at least two off- road parking spaces per household.*

*'That the sense of community which is so important to residents is developed into a strategic plan to include 21st century issues eg mental health, affordable housing etc....*

*'Broadband 3G.*

*'Far better broadband within the village.*

*'Fibre optic broadband.*

*'It would be good if the village could be self sufficient in energy - it's being done elsewhere.*

*'The Angel being restored to its former self.*

*'That plans be drawn up again to convert the URC graveyard to a "car park" with Great Back Lane a one-way road to access the car park. This will require careful consideration as to how cars exit (via The Butts/Primary School junction).*

*'Create a one way system downhill on Great Back a Lane which is the view of 70% of the residents who live there.*

*'Cut back the URC graveyard elm trees away from the power lines. Fire tenders can't get down there at the moment.*

*'The impact on infrastructure (road traffic,schools,surgery,drainage,sewerage etc, etc,) be projected for the proposed increase in housing. Over the past 20 years, the number of households has increased from about 600 to the current 900. Much of the infrastructure is already close to capacity with little opportunity to improve further.*

### **4) What are your fears?**

*'Don't let Debenham become too big, it could easily lose itself into a non discript town. It is a friendly village and long may it remain so.*

*'I agree!!*

*'Over development, and the lack of infrastructure to support,*

*'Debenham is large enough to sustain the local businesses and can supply virtually every need. What must never happen is a 'Tesco Extra or other large shop taking that business away.*

*'The Angel becoming a private residence!*

*'The walks area of Hogs Kiss wood are spoilt by inappropriate recreation facilities eg skateboard park.*

*'That we may lose the Angel Public House to the village. It is vital to the village to have a choice. DO NOT LET IT BECOME A PRIVATE HOUSE,*

*'We are not listened to.*

*'Further reductions to bus service.*

*'Where will the new houses be built?....."*

## **Themes**

### **A) Environment & Transport**

*'Speeding traffic and lorries - do they really need to do this route - can we do a HGV watch?*

*'Part of the churchyard levelled off and gravestones put around the outside - increase capacity for parking.*

*'Parking and traffic is a huge issue.*

- *High Street pavement retracted and introduce diagonal parking to double the space.*
- *3 way traffic lights*
- *HGVs and increasing traffic impacting on the roads.*

*'The bus service through Gardeners Road allows the elderly/ disabled access to a bus who would otherwise be left stranded.*

*'Subsidies for young people working in Ipswich on minimum wage. They have to work one hour or more to pay for the return fare.*

*'A bus to coincide with the last train, cinema or general evening out in Ipswich.*

*'Bus service to and from Ipswich to be more frequent after 4pm.*

*'Parking dangerous in Aspall Road at school times. Need to extend yellow lines opposite Coopers-field.*

*'Car sharing scheme to supplement t public transport and save on carbon emissions.*

*'HGVs on Ipswich Road and speeding traffic is awful for residents (no paths for kids).*

*'Some system of evening public transport especially for young people. At present they either depend on parents to drive them (not ideal!) or are effectively imprisoned in the village.*

*'More parking regulation not required! Police don't use existing rules properly.*

*'Parking outside chip shop on pavement (all 4 wheels) police don't seem to enforce but have said its illegal.*

*'Bus through Gardeners Road...we were promised it would never happen! The road is not suitable for large busses.*

*'More parking must be made available. People visiting find this a problem.*

*'Night bus!*

*'Parking opposite junctions and on grass. Stop it please! Police promised to enforce. When was the last time you saw a copper in Debenham?*

*'Stop the fishing in the lake when water levels are low. Not sporting. Like shooting fish in a barrel.*

*'Allow cycling around the lakes. Cyclists, baby buggies, and pedestrians co-exist in many places such as canal tow paths in London.*

*'"Lake" dries up every year. Cruel to fish. Recently planted enormous willows will add to the problem. Re-direct ditch along footpath as inflow/overflow.*

*'The path leading to the lakes gets flooded fairly often. Can this water be diverted elsewhere?*

*'(Balancing pond/floodplain are on the Meadows) .....This looks a mess, tidy it up! Put up a nicer fence! Make a feature out of it!*

*'More enforcement of dog fouling, and litter collection and street cleaning.*

*'Stop the parking on the grass. Stop building over gardens.*

*'We really need a dog poop bin near the bridge from Meadows Park onto the track. (It gets dumped in the litter in on the play park)*

## **B) History and Heritage**

*'The historical environment should not be preserved in aspic. It depends on a thriving community in an environment which meets modern needs. One of the challenges is to accommodate new uses for buildings which fall into disuse or do not generate income for improvement.*

*'Proper planning control....appropriate developments, proper infrastructure....roads, schools, doctors etc.....**before** development starts.*

*'Keep the history alive - maybe a medieval style recreation day around the original wool trade in Debenham?*

*'What is happening to the Cherry Tree - great location and space - does it have a future.....?*

*'Whilst history and visual appearance is essential to the character of Debenham, the plan should endorse the English Heritage guide to the historic environment and sustainability. With more than 100 listed buildings we cannot afford not to ensure they are as energy efficient as possible and meet present day standards of comfort.*

*'I like the fact that the village is not overly hung up on its historical history, but has evolved over the years.*

*'It is such a beautiful village it needs to be looked after.*

*'The whole County's heritage and culture is important. Debenham is our own beautiful part of it.*

*'History and heritage are key to bringing tourism to Debenham.*

*'Publicise the history of Debenham more.*

## **C) Business and Commercial**

*'Promote....promote...promote businesses. Maintain commercial properties.*

*'The policy should have the development of local employment as a central point. Land needs to be designated for business development. Consider ways in which start-ups can be encouraged.*

*'How about a weekly market in the village centre? On the Green, to attract tourists and businesses?'*

*'We will need a bigger supermarket if we keep expanding.'*

*'We need business start-up units.'*

*'Village loyalty/credit card scheme to promote all businesses, including garage, plumbers etc.'*

*'We need a solicitors, and other small industries....'*

*'A family friendly beer garden would be very popular.'*

*'The Angel needs to remain a business .....maybe a good home cooking eatery.'*

*'A village always needs a garage.'*

*'We need a village credit union.'*

#### **D) Planning and Housing**

*'The new house in Andrews Close is an eyesore. It can be seen as the tallest building for miles. The 4 new houses near the Cherry Tree are totally out of keeping. Colourful small terraces as on Cherry Tree Green are much more appropriate. Planning applications need to be more sensitive to the village environment.'*

*'(New house in Andrews Close) House next to bungalows....is this appropriate?'*

*'Use section 106 to restrict new housing to local work need - deter investment/holiday purchasers - maintain housing stock for local working need.....'*

*'The planning granted for the postage stamp sized plot at 28 Ipswich Road for a 2 storey dormer house was RIDICULOUS, and the planning officer when he came out couldn't believe it had been granted!'*

*'Anymore new builds should be more in keeping with the village - unlike some properties built recently.'*

*'The old garage site in Low Road.....4 x 3-bedroom houses, 2 x 2-bedroom houses, 1x 2-bedroom flat.....6 parking spaces.....where do the others go? High Street?'*

*'We should work at housing for the young people - more shared ownership.'*

*'While Debenham's population increased despite the fall in agricultural employment, this was due to the post war increase in car ownership and commuting. Commuting is now starting to decline. All new housing should be to meet local employment need or provide work space for people who work from home part of the week.'*

#### **E) Health and Education**

*'We need a plan of circular walks near the cometary car park.'*

*'Publicise Debenham as a 'Good Day Out' walks, food,shopping etc. to encourage people from outside the village.'*

*'Maintain library opening hours/access once based at the school to accommodate those who work.'*

*'Ensure all designated paths are not obstructed/ploughed up to ensure they are not lost to future generations.*

*'Ensure access for all in the village eg wheelchairs, pushchairs, other mobility issues can get into parks, lake etc..*

*'Support your library!!! They are an endangered species across the country.*

*'Form a rambling group within the village. Walking all the footpaths once a year will make sure they are kept open.*

*'A Debenham App to access walks, businesses and information.*

*'Footpath signs that say where they lead to! Eg 'Kenton' 'Winston' and 'Ashfield'*

*'Signage in both woodlands need attention they are broken and unsightly.*

*'Purpose built doctors surgery. Parking already restrictive. One way system was mooted at last village appraisal but rejected by MSDC/Highways on the grounds of cost. It's a good idea I think!*

*'Yes I think a one way system for safety would be a good idea, and we are so lucky to have our fire station.*

*'One way system is a good idea. Dove Cottage is fairly expensive for small groups to hire. Pharmacy could be combined with a purpose built surgery....but this might mean job losses.*

*'How will the additional parking from the new development of the Debenham Garage be dealt with?*

*6th Form for the school as there is insufficient public transport for young people to travel elsewhere.*

*'Advice centre for everyone.....a one stop place to signpost to other services. Sometimes the biggest barrier to getting help is knowing who to ask.*

*'Village could do with a purpose built surgery, it would make everyone's life easier. Better parking too!*

*'The village has great facilities - we need to make sure everyone is aware of them and uses them.*

*'Incredibly concerned about the surgery. We need a purpose built surgery with adequate parking. Can't cope with numbers, any future development would be unsustainable.*

## **F) Leisure and Recreation**

*'The community centre and the sports hall are two different but linked facilities. The centre is an amazing facility for a community of our size, and the envy of many visitors. Please use it and value it - it costs the parish nothing and is fully self-funding.*

*'More organised activities/provision for teenagers - supervised.*

*'Improved provision for disabled people eg paths round hop pit wood, drop kerbs so you don't get to the end of the pavement, and can't get off.*

*'Please do not make the village too big. It is unique, and a very friendly place. Too much building would destroy the very attributes it has, and is loved dearly by all, old and new residents. Think well before you take action.'*

*'Gentle exercise programmes needed for the elderly.'*

*'Elderly meet up groups needed.'*

*'Better doctors surgery and schools improvement needed before more housing is built.'*

*'Active elderly reasonably priced keep fit, gentle exercises needed.'*

*'We value the parks and the lake (need picnic benches).'*

*'How about a 'green gym' around the perimeter of the recreation ground? Adults and children can use the outdoor gym- encouraging fitness.'*

*'We need to listen to the needs of the youngsters.'*

*'Skatepark! Would have lots of use and parents supervising them.'*

*'Village needs a proper meeting place for the PC and WI etc to use. Village hall has turned into a sports hall accessible only to those members.'*

*'Better play facilities for pre school age would be well used. It's a lovely area but could be more fun.'*

*'I would like to see more facilities for young people especially teens.'*

*'Somewhere for parking cars is an absolute necessity. The High Street is almost impossible to drive through in safety at any time.'*

*'Consider those in the village that work also.....maybe we don't have children,might not be elderly (yet) but would still appreciate being considered.....'*

*'More employment opportunities and volunteering schemes for young people.'*

*'Mental Health Support/funding of a support group for parents of children with mental health.'*

*'Set up a community car scheme. More homes for local families where housing associations give more emphasis to local residents.'*

*'More cars for people who need transport to hospital, doctors etc. May a volunteer scheme be possible.'*

*'More support for elderly, not just dementia and alzheimer sufferers.'*

*'Need a much better play area on the rec. it's a really poor facility, which is used a lot by the primary school children. It needs to improve with the amount of children in Debenham.'*

*'A proper 5 - aside pitch with 2 goals would be used more than 1 goal with BB hoop.'*

*'A separate village hall for WI meetings and other smaller events.'*

*'A proper village hall for use by the non profit groups.'*

*'Improved play ground on the recreation ground.examples exist all around of more challenging play equipment.*

*'Skatepark - but probably not next to Coopersfield as they can be quite noisy. But not the social menace some people seem to think!!*

*'Charges to use community centre are quite high.*

*'More smaller houses so that our children can stay in the village.*

*'Keep the toilets OPEN!!*

*'Affordable housing for younger people to be able to stay in the village.*

*'More integration of existing services to provide a combined approach to children/families in need.*

*'Support for children and young people with mental health issues.*

*'More houses will need a larger school, plus a 6th form?*

*'Access behind the extended upper school playing field for walkers without them going on the farmers field and crops.*

*Steve Palframan  
29th June 2014*