

Debenham Neighbourhood Plan Presentation Evening (DLC) 22.06.2014

Public Comments

1) What's Good About The Village?

"Fantastic community spirit and lovely safe environment-let's keep it that way"

"I met a cyclist in Ipswich who comes to Debenham because it has loos"

"Public toilets are essential for young, elderly and visitors"

"Debenham is a fantastic place to live. Great facilities, Community groups/activities"

"It's small enough to feel part of the community at its present size- attractive and pleasant just as it is"

"Lovely, independent businesses"

"Public loos and telephone box"

"Small enough for people to know everybody"

"Open green spaces"

"That it is quiet and still at times of day and night"

"Great community spirit and attitude of the people who live here- I love it!"

"Swimming pool project and all involved- Well done!"

“True to its conservation area listing, great heritage. Great get up and go people, very sustainable and healthy”

“Parish council that really supports the parish”

“Woodland and lakes- nice quiet area for a walk”

2) What's Not So Good?

“A few inconsiderate people who think rules don't apply to them, eg speeding, dog poo and litter”

“Village cannot support the extra cars as a result of increased tourism”

“Confrontational Parish Councillors”

“Confrontational members of the public”

“Make PC meetings less onerous so people may think about joining”

“Traffic on Gracechurch Street and Co-op at school times”

“Building of traffic at peak times on Gracechurch Street and t-junction to High Street getting worse- so more cars and increase in population is not, at present, a good idea”

“Limited equipment on the play areas”

“No sixth form”

“What will become of the library building?”

“Opening hours on Saturday of green grocer, butchers and bakery”

“Not enough parking in centre of village”

“Need to encourage more volunteering and co-operation between village groups”

3) What are your hopes?

“Vacancies on Parish Council need to be actively promoted. A village this size should have a full council”

“More affordable and better transport links especially for young people”

“Joint uniformed HQ due to such high numbers and interests”

“Hope that the housing proposed is affordable for young people and takes into consideration the increased need for car parking”

“Library building becomes a house to support local enterprise – allow more pop-up months-more allotments”- Ditto.

“New housing- start-up homes, affordable housing, social housing needed”

4) What are your fears?

“A big national supermarket”

“Representation of the whole village is not being achieved by the Parish Council”

“We lose all bus services and become isolated and reliant on cars”

“Debenham becoming a hectic, noisy, polluted small town” – Ditto

“What is the aim of this process (Neighbourhood Plan) in Debenham?”

“Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan?”

Themes

A) Environment & Transport

“Bus transport from Debenham to the 2 nearest larger towns of Framlingham and Stowmarket- Can't believe they don't exist”

“We do not need to lose any more buses, buses stop too early. Also should think about on-call community transport”

“More flood preventions and maintenance by the EA”

“More dog poo bins and fines for inconsistent owners. Particularly in the Lakes and Millennium wood area”

“I feel the Parish Council should be commended for its approach to environmental issues and practises”

“Keep dogs on leads at all times”

“Keep woodland and lakes for nature and tranquillity for residents”

“Must make example of dog poo leavers”

“Would we allow wind turbines? How open are we? Nimby or not?”

“Really value community recycling centre”

“Keep lakes and woodland free of any skatepark. Looks like a great site for a community orchard”

“How much doe MSDC consider the conservation area, eg, the repainting of house fronts”

“More dog poo bins and fines for offenders. More grit bins and better gritting of side roads please”

“Look after our existing wildlife area and do not build on it. We need wildlife, they do not need us”

“Access from the Meadows onto Low Road would ease congestion along Gracechurch Street”

“Reduce number of huge lorries coming through the High Street”

“Support local bus network. It would be great if there was also a direct route to Stowmarket, especially train station and a late night service from Ipswich”

“Slow the traffic outside the primary and high schools with a chicane, not the rubbish we have at the moment”

“The Suffolk Links Service is not publicised or used much in Debenham”

“Parking enforcement- bottom of Gracechurch Street double yellow lines not being observed; lorries blocking or hindering exits, including from opposite fruit shop- needs action. Not words!”

“More late buses from Ipswich station, ie days in London. No transport mid/late afternoon”

“Car parking needs addressing, not just more yellow lines. There needs to be somewhere to develop and grow or car parking will become problematic”

“Traffic speed- there are accidents waiting to happen along the main roads of Debenham. Drivers frequently exceed 30mph limit. Why do we have to wait for 4 injuries before any action?”

“Car parking- church area of High Street, Gracechurch Street and Co-op area is a problem. Co-op- seems to be increasing in business and is now too busy as regards to lorry and car traffic. It needs moving now- How about the large field along Kenton Road past the small businesses? This field appears to be seldom used. This plot could take a larger co-op and parking and possibly some extra housing. I am sure the flood possibility could be overcome”

“Parking needs to be addressed, cars parking at junctions. Speed limits need to be enforced especially up Gracechurch Street and through the High Street during School pick-up and drop-off; school buses as they are sometimes unable to get through due to bad and inconsiderate parking”

“Increase ground water retention especially on higher ground. Increase planting along the water courses to better effects of farming, ie pollution and erosion”

“Volume and speed of traffic on High Street, lorries on the increase, parking on High Street an accident waiting to happen”

“Publicise and support our local bus network. If we lost the bus network, it would be extremely difficult for younger and older residents to travel”

“Routes and pathways around the community areas not always well signalled”

“More dog bins please”

“Parking is such a problem- could the path be narrowed between Websters’ and Fish and Chip Shop to allow a few car parking spaces”

“It would be safer to make some roads one-way”

“Extend parking by recreation ground”

“Too many cars from doctor’s surgery parking on Moore’s Close. Need better off-road parking”

B) History and Heritage

“A conservation area should be protected by appropriate development-right on the edge but not quite within the CA”

“Ensure the existing buildings maintain their historical Suffolk character- this can also bring commerce into the village because of tourism”

“Encourage tourism but concerned about traffic pollution”

“Please don’t spoil our lovely High Street. Develop brown sites”

“Help preserve our High Street and local facilities, eg do not let individuals come in and take our pub the Angel- bring it back to being a village pub with a family garden”

“The varied and beautiful architecture of Debenham makes it what it is; also the layout, the greens and public seats in order to admire it. Are school children taken on tours in and out of these interesting old buildings- you learn so much (annual tour for the public was excellent”

“Once old buildings and features are gone they cannot be replaced. New buildings in the settings of old building, particularly in the CA should be sympathetic in design”

“Engagement with the EA re flooding- more work to prepare the village during flood times (preventative measures)”

“How about a visitors’ centre?”

“Task force should be set-up to ensure village remains picturesque”

“Is this the new Co-op? It looks more like a swimming pool in Bedford to me! Are we going to steal it? Great idea (but not the best location)”

“Visitors to the village always comment on the wealth of period buildings in our gorgeous village. Maintaining them is important but costly. Owners of listed buildings are often frustrated by our zealous officials who should be more sympathetic and supportive”

“Don’t allow public buildings to become converted into homes when the facilities are badly wanted by the village, eg the Angel”

“Stop any more developments in sensitive/attractive locations”

“Keep the charm and the character of the village, which encourages tourism and helps small local businesses- not more housing”

“More interest trails, such as interest trails”

“Keep the existing pub”

C) Business and Commercial

“No more houses on the High Street- keep it for small businesses, eg, do not allow the Angel Pub to be turned into housing”

“Address the terrible parking problems”

“Encourage most business but with the view of parking. Locals to walk to local shops. Deliveries made to residents who cannot get to shops. Local shops to deliver the goods”

“Encourage small businesses into our business park”

“Short term parking needs to be addressed to support our fantastic local businesses”

“At local level, allow enterprises to use parish areas, eg the green, to do pop-up market stalls”

“Future businesses- press for Saturday and Sunday opening or later than 5pm weekdays, so working parents can use them more”

“Keep the High Street for shops/pubs/businesses for the community. Do not let more businesses become houses on the High Street, eg the Angel Pub”

“Provide starter units for small businesses”

“Support for local enterprise-allow young pop up businesses to test the high street”

“Debenham is very lucky to have such a wealth of shops- we need to look at the parking difficulties to support them”

“We do not need a reduction in the number of public houses-both open are well supported”

D) Planning and Housing

“Only neighbouring properties are informed by MSDC of planning applications and other residents may not be aware of them even though they may wish to comment”

“More affordable housing for the young people”

“Not so many millionaire’s mansions”

“Before any more extra housing is built, services, parking etc should be in place first”

“Affordable housing needed for the young ones specially, not huge “delicious” ones”

“Need to address the impact of further housing on police, drainage, traffic, fire service, schools, NHS”

“Fewer 4 bed houses and more 2-3 bed ones”

“Do not allow inappropriate houses to be built in inappropriate sites in the village”

“The impact of increased housing on the school class sizes and parking problems must be assessed”

“Any increase in housing must include an increase in school places, doctors, police, drainage and infrastructure”

“New houses should have parking included as part of the site”

“Let’s have a solar farm instead of blighting lovely roofs with solar panels”

“Ensure plans for new housing embrace different, individual and aesthetically pleasing exteriors- no Barrett’s type all the same type houses please”

“Future developments should be small sites, not another large estate like The Meadows”

“Houses should incorporate traditional bricks or render from Suffolk, not look like generic boxes”

“Angel Pub to be left as a family pub. No more houses on the High Street. Fill in areas, gaps. Sympathetic management of new architecture”

“No more houses on the High Street, ie the Angel Pub”

“We need more 2 bedroom houses and flats for young couples and not 4-5 bedroom executive homes which stand empty because there is no room in the schools for the children of families who might buy them”

“With Debenham expanding, why are pubs being turned into houses? Who permits this to happen and who gains financially?”

“The Parish Council and MSDC appear to have got it right except for the large, “delicious” houses built on the outskirts recently!”

“No building on flood plains, ie behind the Angel pub”

“Ensure enough buses and car parking if future development happens”

E) Health and Education

“Doctors surgery- is it big enough for the future? Parking very difficult during opening hours”

“High school needs to grow in size but not necessarily more students”

“A footpath map like Framsden’s would be worth having- with footpath numbers on it (Framsden’s doesn’t). There are no free footpath leaflets available now, nor village guide”

“Advertise where footpath maps are available. Outlets need to me more than just “Websters”

“Visitor centre or small Tourist Information office”

“Great schools- why not a great sixth form?”

“Up to date leaflets with walks described would be great”

“Secure more burial space”

“Two pharmacies and two vets- does Debenham really need two of each?”

“Joint uniformed Youth group HQ”

“Green burials in the woodland or somewhere else”

“Would support one-way streets on Low Road-High Street if fire service want it and the number of calls warrant it- I don’t believe it does at present”

“Debenham has a brilliant high school. Children of this age are the future of the village and should be supported with additional facilities and activities”

“Would like family pub with play area, family meals, etc”

“Walking/footpath routes to be advertised on “Discover Suffolk” website; publicise in EADT weekend walk and promote one a month in the parish magazine”

F) Leisure and Recreation

“Swimming pool for use by all. Skatepark, if needed, to be located near the sports centre”

“Get the xxxx skatepark sorted”

“Better transport to neighbouring facilities”

“Uniformed group HQ”

“Better transport links, especially for young people”

“Buses which run later than 5pm”

“Swimming pool”

“Facilities for teenagers, somewhere safe for them and that interests them”

“A sixth form”

“Groups for the elderly -a lunchtime club? A network for neighbours to help”

“Play equipment for older children and fit network”

“Skatepark/ secret hut place for teenagers to go to”

“Sixth form”

“Skatepark to stay at DLC and a swimming pool a must, as it is enjoyed by all ages”

“Youth provision for high school age children needs improving-we have great children in the village and should support them”

“More holiday activities for young children”

“Skatepark to be at the DLC and not in any remote areas in the village”

“Keep footpaths open”

“Sport facilities should be encouraged as a route to good health and wellbeing- maintain or increase funding”

“Elderly- befriending service, car share, shopping, good neighbours”

“A definitive walking and running trail”

“Can Seers Medical be persuaded to turn the land unused behind their factory into a nature reserve?”

“Recreation should be in one place- the DLC”

“Support the swimming pool project- great idea which is long overdue”

“If there’s going to be a skatepark in Debenha, it must be located in the DLC and not in remote areas that will encourage drinking and drugs, ie not near the lakes”

“We need a proper village hall, suitable for small groups, preferable with facilities for catering”

“The youth need outside areas to let off steam. We are encouraged to exercise more for our health and well-being”

“Better and more play equipment at the park for young children”

“Great to see there will be a bigger library/resource centre at the school”

Dina Bedwell

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