

Town Centre Community Event- Edited Notes

Date: Friday 1st October 2010

Venue: Broad Green community centre

Time: 5pm-7pm

Attendee's: Cllr Wright, Roslyn Timlin, Donald Reeve, J Phillips, Kevin Leakey, Karen Leakey, John Frescarsis, Pam Fregard, K Jones, Madge Sutton, E Gladis, Mark Walker (Cluster Lead), Paul Dixon, Daniel Collins, H Pontins, Ahmed Adeed.

Council's town planning representatives: Phil Smith, Strategic Policy Manager, Kenny Duncan, Senior Planner and Julie O'Rourke, Assistant Planner.

Council volunteers: Simon Lyme, Transport Planner, Heather Carlisle, Planner, Peter Garitsis, Urban Designer.

Participation method: The community were divided into four groups of six to eight people and were asked to sit in a circle. . In the middle of the circle was three pieces of card with the following titles, 'what do you value in your neighbourhood?', 'What would you like to improve in your neighbourhood?' and 'What are your aspirations for your community?' Every group was given three sets of different coloured post it notes and pens. Then the community was asked to discuss in pairs the questions, then in small groups and then as a single group.

Question one: What do you value in your community? (Every response as written on the post it note or as captured by the council's representative)

- Open spaces and allotments (5 people made similar comments)
- Transport- bus/train (3 people made similar comments)
- Free areas
- Community council (3 people made similar comments)
- Location (2 people made similar comments)
- Safe (2 people made similar comments)
- sense of place
- Play areas nearby
- Mechanics back in use
- Community facilities- dentist, doctors
- Walk in centre
- Good town centre public realm improvements
- Seating back in the town centre-good thing
- Clean
- Park rangers and manager
- Value Broad Green Community Centre
- Quiet roads
- Value of my house
- Community café-it's the focus/heart of the community

- Would miss resident parking if they took it away
- Feel relatively safe
- Friendly neighbours (6 people made similar comments)
- Quality shops along Broad Street /Manchester Road (4 people made similar comments)
- A street party
- Recreation Ground (2 people made similar comments)

Question two: What would you like to improve in your community? (Every response as written on the post it note or as captured by the council's representative)

- More action on fly tipping (4 people made similar comments)
- Rebuild the Broad Green Community centre on its present site (2 people made similar comments)
- Locate a dog bin in the area (6 people made similar comments)
- Extend the Streets for living project to cover whole area-or just a place strategic 'raised gateways' at road junction to slow traffic down (4 similar comments- particular issues with Bathurst Rd/Drove Rd/Groundwell Rd
- Issue with the back alleys, people drinking, urinating and leaving litter - need lighting and gates (9 people made similar comments)
- Repaint all road markings-there are regular near misses and small crashes due to the road markings being worn away (2 similar comments)
- Repaint road signs-the pressed aluminium signs are in urgent need of attention (2 similar comments)
- Protect green spaces at County Ground from redevelopment and other green spaces/allotments (4 similar comments)
- Limit the number of family homes being turned into multi-occupancy bedsits/flats/houses of multiple occupation (8 similar comments made)
- Improve the look of the County Ground extension
- Issues with residents parking- people park on the pavements/alley ways and block the paths, no resident parking spaces (11 people made similar comments)
- Renew the County ground play park
- Upgrade the athletics track
- Landscape/improve the small green space at the west end of Medgbury Road-turn it in to a small community garden
- Establish the ownership of the patch of land at the Manchester Road/County Road junction and see if it can be landscaped rather than becoming overgrown every summer and a hotspot for rubbish and fly tipping
- Lack of schools-area does not encourage family units (4 similar comments made by the residents)
- Broken promises from Swindon Borough Council (16 similar comments made)
- Empty houses and buildings (3 similar comments made)
- Public houses
- Threatening feeling in areas
- Poor entry into area on roads
- Roads not sensible by Iceland turn
- Litter (10 similar comments made)

- Cycling on pavements (3 similar comments made)
- Alcohol in the streets (5 similar comments)
- Lack of presence of e.g. officers, e.g. police on the streets
- Anti-social behaviour in Queens Park and drug dealing in the park (2 similar comments)
- Over development of the area
- Lack of volunteers (3 similar comments)
- People only turn up when they want to complain
- Nothing wrong with the status quo
- Irresponsible shop owners (3 similar comments)
- Some people expect things to be done for them
- Old college site eyesore
- Prostitutes living in our area, selling drugs and causing intimidation (5 similar comments)
- Disrespect from other people/other areas
- Engaging with people especially diverse communities. The Broadgreen Com Council has tried hard-to find the partner groups-SBC/Police make it ok for groups to stay secular (3 similar comments)
- Stalled regeneration of town centre
- Kids playing football in the street-unsafe
- No building houses on County Ground
- Whale Bridge underpass- unhygienic
- Drainage issues on housing side streets
- Bus station and railway station need to be on interchange/one location in the central area
- Lack of transport into town
- Potential loss of street traders
- Loss of historic buildings (Tabernacle)

Question three: What are your aspirations for your community in the future? (Every response as written on the post it note or as captured by the council's representative)

- More facilities for older people like seating, post offices and a variety of shops
- Outsiders to stop continually running us down (1 similar comment)
- Improved community hall facilities (Broadgreen) (6 similar comments)
- True involvement of local people (5 similar comments)
- A community garden in Queens Park (3 similar comments)
- The businesses to give back to the community/residents and also become more part of the community (1 similar comment)
- CCTV all over to work for the benefit of the community
- Make sure that Whale Bridge Health Centre is rebuilt and located near to existing practice
- Close entrance to Gambia street from Country Road to stop traffic using the area as a cut through-especially during rush hour periods
- Double yellow lines and lighting in all alleyways (3 similar comments)
- Dog bins in the area (2 similar comments)
- Extend streets for Living project to all areas

- Broadgreen to be the area to be emulated rather than the ****hole of the town
- Clean streets
- No pot holes
- Keep sports facilities open
- Not just pubs
- More councillors to come to our meetings and if any decisions to be made they should listen to use more and keep hands off our centre
- Keep working on the positive to move forward
- A good play area at the County Ground and make it safer for children
- A better cultural offer (including the community)
- Proper participatory budgeting including involvement S106
- Stop any more homes being changed to HMO's (houses of multiple occupation) (3 similar comments)
- Visible police presence at night/day (4 similar comments)
- Open up Manchester Rd right turn from County Ground
- Housing- bring back family's into area
- Schools part of the housing issue
- Road improvements as a community area
- Occupy what we have before building
- Immediate stopping of cycling on paths
- Garden standards
- Visitor attractions
- Museum improved
- Canal into town centre
- 20mph speed limit in Broadgreen
- A fish and chip shop
- Street traders to return to the centre (1 similar comment)
- More green spaces
- Larger theatre/cultural sector/concert hall/dance hall
- Greater variety of shops in the town centre (2 similar comments)
- Increased parking warden activity to stop indiscriminate parking (4 similar comments)
- Transport interchange
- Football ground to be improved but retaining the existing facilities (athletics track etc) on site
- Better mix of shops on the Manchester Road/ Broad Street area, for example, a florist, a hairdressers, bakery or butchers

Priorities for the Town Centre

1. Address the issues associated with the back alleys- parking, litter, safety and anti-social behaviour
2. Limit the number of flats and homes of multiple occupation (11 similar comments made)
3. Address the issues of residents parking and unsuitable parking (11 similar comments)
4. Protect the existing green spaces and allotments (10 similar comments)

5. Improve Broadgreen community centre, however do not relocate it. (9 similar comments made)
6. Build a primary school in the area to attract families (5 similar comments)
7. The County Ground to be improved but retaining the existing facilities (athletics track etc) on site (5 similar comments made)
8. Address the issues of speeding by either introducing speed control mechanisms or through extending the Streets for living project to cover whole area-or just a place strategic 'raised gateways' at road junction to slow traffic down (4 similar comments-particular issues with Bathhurst Rd/Drove Rd/Groundwell Rd)
9. community garden in Queens Park (3 similar comments)
10. Re-use empty buildings and houses

Non-planning related issues which need to be addressed:

1. Broken promises from Swindon Borough Council (16 similar comments made)
2. Litter (10 similar comments made)
3. Provide dog bins in the area (10 similar comments made)
4. Alcohol in the streets (5 similar comments)
5. Prostitutes living in our area, selling drugs and causing intimidation (5 similar comments)
6. Visible police presence at night/day (5 similar comments)
7. Increased parking warden activity to stop indiscriminate parking (4 similar comments)
8. Engaging with people especially diverse communities. The Broadgreen Community Council has tried hard-to find the partner groups-SBC/Police make it ok for groups to stay secular (3 similar comments)
9. Lack of volunteers (3 similar comments)
10. Anti-social behaviour in Queens Park and drug dealing in the park (2 similar comments)