

## West Swindon Community Event- Edited Notes

**Date:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**Venue:** West Swindon Library

**Time:** 7pm-9pm

**Attendee's:** Cllr Nick Martin (Chair of the West Cluster), Bernie Brannan, (West Cluster Lead), Irene McGough, Jim McGough, Cllr Mary Martin, Cllr Michael Dickinson, Steve Langley, Mr Larking, Mollie Groom, Mark Fox, Sue Blundell, Simon Wicks, Peter Kempshall, Marilyn Kempshall, A Rose, B Brooks, Sandie Brooks, Geraldine Barnard, Emma Dunn, Graham Weller, Kevin Fisher, Yalou Wang, Jun Yang, Cllr Peter Greenhalgh, MP Robert Buckland, Cllr Keith Williams.

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

**Council volunteers:** Sarah Screen, Section 106 Project Manager, Simon Lymn, Transport Planner, Richard Bell, Head of Planning, Rhian Morris, Principle Planner and Pam Pixton, Neighbourhood and Community Officer.

**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.

### **Introduction**

Cllr Nick Martin (West Swindon Cluster Chair) opened the meeting with an explanation of the background to planning arrangements and the recent abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy since the new coalition government came to power. There was unanimous support to make a major objection to development on the boundary of West Swindon piggybacking on West Swindon infrastructure.

**Question 1: What do you value in your community? (Every response as written on the post it notes and by the planning officers)**

- Lots of parks ( 3 similar comments)
- Good green areas, e.g Shaw Forest ( 3 similar comments)
- Middleleaze New Park

- Real identity to West Swindon ( 4 similar comments)
- Good connectivity-foot path/cycle ways linkages ( 11 similar comments)
- Green open space – not just parks ( 9 similar comments)
- Sense of community-you know your neighbours Generally nice all over and quiet ( 10 similar comments)
- Choice of transport, buses/roads ( 3 similar comments)
- Good sports and leisure facilities ( 2 similar comments)
- Good local shopping ( 5 similar comments)
- Lydiard Park and Lydiard House and Peatmoor Lagoon ( 8 similar comments)
- Good schools. Primary and secondary schools are good (6 similar comments- Peatmoor School mentioned twice).
- Vandalism's on the decline-the demographics seem to be settling down
- Good hierarchy of roads for West Swindon Alone
- Crime is low
- A local community that is interested on local issues on an increasing basis
- Good choice of community facilities ( 3 similar comments)
- Range and mix of housing available helps the community develop ( 3 similar comments)
- Social clubs, WI etc ( 1 similar comment)
- Freshbrook CC
- Luxury of the countryside with a town within easy reach
- Rich wildlife area with Shaw Forest ( 1 similar comment)
- Shaw Farm is an excellent place for a lot of activities
- Open fields for football
- Link Centre ( 2 similar comments)
- Windmill Hill
- West Swindon was very well planned and has great infrastructure ( 2 similar comments)
- Outlet centre and Steam Good
- Proximity to shops, leisure, library and restaurants
- Party in the park event ( 1 similar comment)
- Hook as a village
- Clean air/clean atmosphere
- The library being located within the shopping centre ( 1 similar comment)
- The cinema
- Children can play in the road, as they are safe and secure
- Lots of children's facilities for young children
- Greendown School offers many facilities

**Question 2: What would you like to improve in your community? (Every response as written on the post it notes and by the planning officers)**

- West Swindon to Wroughton Road. When is it finished?
- The Meadway is very crowded in the morning and after 5pm
- NHS Dental Practices

- Not enough representation of police now the station has moved ( 6 similar comments)
- Close Purton Road Bridge ( 1 similar comment)
- Not enough parking at the GWH (Great Western Hospital) and they charge too much
- Street Lights on during the day
- Provide activities for teenagers ( 9 similar comments)
- Road safety
- Single tracked roads
- Dogs- Lydiard Park. Inconsiderate owners-we do not all love them-especially when they run up and jump up at children and adults alike
- Improve the sewerage disposal ( 1 similar comment)
- Signage of routes needs improvement
- Improve the cycle/pedestrian walkways- make them more direct/safe ( 7 similar comments)
- Urban sprawl does not equal pride in Swindon. We have to enhance what we've already got
- ASDA- Other shops driven out ( 3 similar comments)
- Freshbrook Village Centre is tired and needs work on the public areas
- Why is it that Swindon has to take the extra housing? Why not surrounding settlements?
- Junctions- peak hour traffic on the main arteries ( 2 Similar comments)
- Quality of the Link centre and west Swindon Centre- time for a revamp ( 1 similar comment)
- Flooding due to the (proposed) new developments ( 2 similar comments)
- Cars go too fast on the rat runs (20mph in residential areas)
- Over development spoiling West Swindon
- Lack of employment for local residents
- Popular schools are full
- Trimming of shrubs in public areas ( 1 similar comment)
- Litter
- So many empty offices and warehouses covered in graffiti ( 3 similar comments)
- Junction 15a at croft Rd ( 1 similar comment)
- Town centre is full of chain stores, bargain stores, not going to attract people to town
- Connect facilities- build into schools or other council facilities
- Road conditions- pothole repairs
- Why is there a 'yellow box' junction markings at Masir Roundabout such as Rodbourne bridges double roundabout
- Outer ring road outside buffer
- Speeding cars along Swindon Drive taking a short cut around the car show rooms
- Reduction of the adult education courses (less government funding)
- Too many disused spaces at the supermarket and not enough mother and baby spaces ( 1 similar comment)
- No speed limit on Hook Street
- The West Swindon Centre offers no diversity
- Build the Iffley to Purton road Link Road
- A.S.B.O's at late opening shops

- Alternative transport to buses –Light rail transit?
- If you build roads traffic will fill it
- No bus to Orbital from west Swindon
- Street lights at Peatmoor often out of action
- Not much sense of community for young people
- Infrastructure concerns of 2,000 extra homes, educational pressures, facilities for communities, lack of health facilities ( 3 similar comments)
- Communities facilities in Grange Park ( 1 similar comment)
- Maintenance of ditches
- Graffiti
- Council house the criminals ( 3 similar comments)
- Build a new West Swindon district centre ( 1 similar comment)
- Stop the rat run through Westlea and Nine Elms ( 2 similar comment)
- Meads Way being clogged up by North Swindon traffic ( 3 similar comments)
- Purton Road being a bottle neck.
- Lorries/HGV's travelling on inappropriate roads.
- Access problems to Washpool Road and Swinley Drive
- Transport jams-you have to drive everywhere because of the poor bus services ( 4 similar comments)
- Crime is low however the perception of crime is high ( 3 similar comments)
- The lack of hospitals in West Swindon
- The number of traffic lights on the Thamesdown Drive.
- The traffic flows need to be improved! ( 1 similar comment made)
- The traffic lights in the Ridgeway dip could cause danger to children
- There are no links to Sparcells
- Crossing on the Akers Way
- Tewkesbury Way- cars from Wilts
- Ring road- A419/J16
- £50 to book a football pitch ( 1 similar comment)
- Move the boundary to take over Wilts ( 3 similar comments)
- Impact of growth on the hospital
- Hook Street – Swindon does not need it, Wilts use Swindon's infrastructure and it will encroach on Wooton Bassett
- Housing figures in the JSA are out of date
- Don't want West and North Swindon joined up
- The transport figures for Hook Street trip rates seem unrealistically low- 12 vehicles for 5 houses
- Fine developers for wasting time
- Sports facilities need audiences ( 1 similar comment)
- Events spaces- recently increased capacity of the ice rink- use the space at other times
- Parking spaces are difficult in the town centre
- Wichelstowe-stabbing and shooting
- Issues with cars in the Pizza Hut car park
- Should be a road from North Swindon to the M4
- Lack of community facilities
- Shops in Peatmoor need to be improved
- Local Cllr's should have more say other developments from other councils

- Create more pride in Swindon as a whole (1 similar comment)

**Question 3: What are your aspirations for your community? (Every response as written on the post it notes and by the planning officers)**

- District centre should expand onto the Shaw Ridge Leisure Park ( 1 similar comment)
- New white collar jobs in West Swindon ( 3 similar comments)
- Protection of local heritage such as Lydiard Park ( 2 similar comments)
- Mixed development-do that schools do not become redundant
- Keep West Swindon a distinctive community ( 2 similar comments)
- Keep current green spaces and parks ( 2 similar comments recorded)
- An university campus ( 5 similar comments)
- Enhance the Swindon Link Centre ( 6 similar comments)
- Create a bus service near J16 (M4)
- Restaurants
- More for the young to do (2 similar comments)
- Local support
- For the community to have more of a say in decision making in West Swindon ( 4 similar comments)
- Leave things alone- renew some facilities
- More greenery
- Tired areas-replant
- Leave it alone- Status Quo
- Adult play/exercise equipment
- Good pub/quality
- Free facilities
- Improved signage
- A ring road from North Swindon to M4 to town centre
- Graffiti and rubbish free area ( 1 similar comment)
- Rubbish to be collected weekly
- More health facilities like Carfax Walk In Centre ( 1 similar comment)
- More retail outlets to complement national chain shops
- Good use of empty offices/warehouses
- A big new district centre- ASDA, Comet/Homebase
- Snow Dome in the Town centre ( 4 similar comments)
- Improved cycle routes into the town centre
- Move the Swindon Border and create a green buffer zone
- Stop rat runs that cut through M4 to M5 via Mead Way and Thamesdown Drive
- Bus link as an orbital route linking West Swindon to hospital
- Lowering housing density to improve quality of life in communities
- Infrastructure in place first before development
- Purton-GWW Link road
- Town centre regeneration a priority
- Greater mixture of local shopping facilities in West Swindon District Centre
- Modern well designed housing
- Senior schools for Peatmoor and lots of school buses
- West Swindon bypass very urgent

- Buses running later on Sundays and to places in Swindon other than the town centre [and other towns] ( 1 similar comment)
- For the Purton-Iffley Road link to be put in place ( 1 similar comment)
- Outer ring road with orbital public transport links around the town. ( 1 similar comment)
- Happy to be left with the status quo in West Swindon. Area looking tired in places and in need of a refresh.
- Adjust western borders to allow Swindon to have greater powers over neighbouring houses in West Swindon. ( 1 similar comment)
- No (Don't want a) connection to North Swindon
- Turn Purton Road into a cycle path
- A Light Rail Transit from the junction of Thamesdown Drive to the Train Station ( 3 similar comments)
- A park and Ride on Junction 16 that goes into the centre of Swindon
- Sports facilities with supporters stands ( 3 similar comments)
- Create a super centre
- Cut the hedges twice a year ( 1 similar comment)
- Olympic sized swimming pool with spectators facilities ( 8 similar comments) or a fifty metre pool which can hold top level competitions-specialist swimming pool

#### **Priorities for the West Cluster**

1. Provide activities for teenagers
2. Protect the green open spaces
3. Protect Lydiard Park and House
4. Provide a Olympic sized swimming pool with spectators seating facilities ( 9 similar comments)
5. Enhance the Link Centre
6. Build a snow dome in the centre
7. Re-develop the empty offices and ware-houses in West Swindon
8. Provide a University for Swindon
9. Improve the walkways and cycle ways for pedestrians
10. Provide community facilities for Fresh brook and Grange Park

#### **Non-planning related issues which need to be addressed:**

1. Larger police presence
2. For the community to have more of a say in decision making in West Swindon
3. Address the perception of high crime levels.