

# Community & Leisure

2<sup>nd</sup> Round Public Consultation

19:30 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Milford Social Club

5 Chevin Road (opposite the school)

Milford

DE56 0QH

Facilitator: John Devine

## Reporting Feedback



### Introduction

Neighbourhood Plan 4 Belper team has taken feedback from our first consultations which took place around Belper Parish earlier this year, While the number of feedback forms returned was disappointingly small, those forms we did get were very interesting and some very good points were raised.

This information we have been able to use to produce an outline as to which direction our Plan should take within each of the following categories.

Plan for Belper - Consultation 1 - Community and Leisure Jan 2016

Key points -

1. Belper is inspirational, open access countryside
2. There are many varying communities of interest demonstrating a lively community spirit and social life, but perhaps there needs to be more communication about what's going on, which could take the form of more co-ordinated parish 'notice boards' (real and virtual)
3. Is the parish sufficiently served by the physical community hub buildings it needs? Should there be an audit of those existing, and does there need to be another central, social 'drop-in' place? There should be a central directory of places
4. The town really comes alive in several key weeks - the DVMWHS weeks, Arts Festival, Food Festival
5. Are people falling through the 'gaps' in community and social life? How can that be best addressed?
6. Is adult education too qualifications oriented now?
7. There should be improvements to the physical leisure offer - improvements to the relationship between stakeholders in Belper Leisure centre
8. There are concerns about limitations on places at Pottery School
9. There could be more formal FE College links to the town
10. Provision of facilities for teenagers is not good. Perhaps emphasise more inter-generational spaces?
11. Should there be drop-in arrangements at health centres? (there is casualty coverage by Ripley GPs in their area, for example.
12. The location of Babington Hospital and access is good and will be a loss
13. Access to Belper Meadows and the Nailers needs to be improved.

## COMMUNITY

Community rooms are something that Belper is fortunate to have a good supply of.

The old schools, with their various sizes of rooms, lend themselves to community use: the Strutts Centre on Derby Road; the Adult Education Centre, on Holbrook Road (is it available to the general public?); the Fleet Arts Centre, on The Fleet; No28, on the Market Square; the Community Centre (off Bridge Street, near the library); the Social Club at Milford. Many sports clubs in the town offer room hire for parties and events. The Leisure Centre has rooms available for hire to the general public. There are also a good number of public houses within the Belper area with rooms and facilities available for public hire. However there is scope for additional public space:-

There is no community centre on the Parks Estate.

There was a lot of support for a community hub building in the centre of Belper where events and businesses could be advertised, with a cafe and social drop-in centre; perhaps even a meeting place for the town council with space for the public to observe.

The old Thornton's building on Derwent Street would lend itself in part, to an easy conversion to community leisure activities. It already has a stage and could be the basis of a community centre on the ground floor of value to all age groups.

The Tea Rooms at the River Gardens, when eventually built and with sufficient thought, could also become a community space.

Community engagement - volunteer allotments: veg. boxes. At the moment we have a handful of people who seem to do the bulk of the organising. How can we safeguard and build on their skills and enthusiasm for the future? What space is available for community use? Who wants what and where? There is much information required from the community.

Access to public buildings for both the elderly/infirm and the disabled of the parish. Work has already been done in this regard by Accessible Belper, but there is more to do.

Should we be setting up some facility/scheme for the acquisition of local pubs as community Assets should they fail as public houses? Such premises would be ideally placed for alternative, community uses.

## LEISURE

Leisure facilities.

Some have said that they would like a modern swimming pool with flumes, waves, etc. as well as the usual swimming pools. Does this have community support? Would keep-fit and sports facilities also need to be included? Would it be better to have one large development or separate smaller developments? Issues such as space/parking/congestion/access would need to be taken into consideration.

Alternatively, should we be looking at extending/redeveloping the existing Leisure Centre? Issues such as school priority use/funding and access to the east side of Belper would need to be taken into consideration.

Or should we consider a Leisure Centre/Leisure Facility in the south of the parish? There would still be the same issues of space/parking/congestion/access as for a development in Belper Town.

The Blue Box Scheme provides Multi Sports and Educational Workshops to the youth of Belper Parks. Their management committee is looking at alternative/increase of use and looking at volunteer support in order to do this. The community need to get involved.

The creation of Multi User Games Courts is suggested for the Parks Community. They provide safe, well lit facility for casual use sports by the youth of Parks. What about Milford? Sommerlea Leisure Centre already has one as have many others. These are usually owned by AVBC. Sporting Futures run sessions there.

#### Entertainment venues:

We have numerous music venues around the town (mostly pub based): the Queens Head, the Old Kings Head, the George & Dragon, the Lion Hotel, and many more - some akin to community centres. Should we use the Neighbourhood Plan to safeguard our pubs from closure by protecting them as 'Community Assets'? This would be a big undertaking and would need ongoing community involvement, but could be a boon to the more rural parts of the Belper neighbourhood area.

#### Town Notice Boards.

A suggestion has been made about having electronic notice boards throughout the parish, which could be updated from the town council offices. There is also the possibility to have screens showing the same information in pubs, cafes and shops where there is a willingness to host them. There would be issues such as cost/installation/security/maintenance. Costs could be offset by selling advertising space on the system to local businesses and national organisations (think newspaper ads). Are you in favour of these ideas or not?

#### Blue corridors - picnic areas or seating?

Are picnic areas as valued as they once were? Would they be used by families or prove a lure for antisocial behaviour? Would such areas be better placed away from the 'Blue Corridor' and closer to the edge of town i.e. the bottom end of Derwent Street and elsewhere along the bottom of the slope at the edge of the Meadows? Perhaps better provision of seating along the 'Blue Corridor' might prove more popular whilst still providing many of the benefits of picnic areas? We need to know which option the community favours.

## **EDUCATION**

Concern has been expressed that schools provision within the neighbourhood plan area is at capacity. Also, that there is insufficient tertiary education provision. The views of professionals are being sought but we welcome any information, suggestions or ideas that anyone has.

## **YOUTH/ELDERLY/DISABLED**

There is a good offer of structured sports within the area for young people, but there is very little that caters for ad hoc and flexible needs. It has been suggested that there needs to be more provision for areas to kick a football about or just to congregate.

We have been told there is a need for further youth facilities at the Whitmore end of Belper and at Milford.

Do you agree? Please let us know so we can get a consensus.

Should we have shared leisure/meeting facilities for young and old? The old Thornton's site could possibly lend itself to redevelopment of this nature, a good sized space with easy access and parking in which to hold music, performing arts and other larger scale events. The needs of the younger and older generations, when it comes to entertainment, are remarkably similar when it comes to venues.

For the elderly, infirm and those with disabilities: can we further improve Belper town centre by focussing on ease of access to all premises? What about the cost? A number of shops already make an effort to support those customers with additional needs, but many don't shout about it. For instance, did you know that we have retail staff in the town that can sign and say hello to those with hearing impairments. It will be useful to tie in such accessibility considerations to future planning and development in and around Belper.

## **HEALTH**

The NHS South Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group produced a document last year entitled:

### **Joined Up Care in Belper**

Healthcare Service Review for the town and surrounding areas

**Interim Report -October 2015.**

This is a 52 page document with gives many facts, figures and proposals. The link to access this document is: <http://www-southernderbysheccg.nhs.uk/have-your-say/belper-health-services/>

This document was followed by:

### **Joined Up Care in Belper**

Pre-engagement Report

This is an 8 page report which sets out the findings of the survey conducted at this time,

In total 84 questionnaires were completed. It is expected that there will be further consultations taking place in the summer and that will be an opportunity for more Belper people to take part and make their views known. The link to this document also is:

<http://www-southernderbysheccg.nhs.uk/have-your-say/belper-health-services/>

## **SPORTS**

There is comparatively little opportunity for casual or spontaneous sports other than fishing or ball games on green open spaces. Multi User Games Courts would certainly help to redress this imbalance. Perhaps aiming for at least 4 - one by the skate park, one on Parks Estate and one at the Whitemoor Estate and one at Milford?

## **COMMUNITY & LEISURE FEEDBACK**

Post to: NP4B, St. John's Chapel, The Butts, Belper DE56.1HX.

or e-mail to: [info@planforbelper](mailto:info@planforbelper)