

Parish Council Workshop – South West

11th July 2012

These notes are a record of points raised in open discussion sessions by those attending the workshop, where a wide variety of views and ideas were put forward. The notes capture the range of issues and views identified on flip charts used at the sessions, on the tables where groups of Parishes were represented.

MELDRETH, HARSTON, ORWELL

Housing

- Before we do any more get existing infrastructure right e.g. broadband, transport and drainage (foul drainage is an issue in Orwell)
- Sort our Anglian Water
- Does SCDC understand sustainable development? (not just sustainable growth, what is its definition?)
- A lot of SCDC villages do not have connection to sewage
- A lot of villages are not connected to the gas system and want to be
- Opportunities for village renewable energy schemes
- Need big/joined up thinking with SCDC e.g. cramped sheltered housing - mobile warden. Now need to move people around, and where is the transport?
- Need easier ways to get planning advice about building houses (such as publicity for the duty officer and pre-app system)
- What can SCDC do as a housing authority to ensure houses are not under occupied e.g. by older residents staying in larger homes and how to encourage down-sizing?
- Orwell wants homes for families and younger residents to support village activities, facilities and to create village cohesion. It has no gas or sewage problems.
- Harston has long back gardens being developed for large houses. How do we get smaller homes built?
- Village frameworks are a good idea, but need rationalisation in some instances. Need to understand what they have been drawn where they are..
- We have lost smaller properties.
- What can be done to encourage local builders, self-build, and greener homes how to provide incentives?

Transport

- Harston needs a bypass and wants more allotments
- Roads and footways to be maintained (potholes)

Open Space

- Harston needs a bypass and wants more allotments

Community

- Where is the local food production?

Employment

- Orwell needs employment for young people
- Need incentives for green industries (scale that works with local villages, and creates jobs)
- Villages need to do more for themselves

MELBOURN, HEYDON, GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL

Housing

- Over 100 local people in need of affordable housing in Melbourn but think there is enough land available with minimum amount of market housing needed to make it all viable (maximum amount of affordable housing)
- Keep village frameworks. Allow modest adjustments and backfilling for smaller homes for downsizing (older people or for starter homes).
- Not aware of any local housing need in Heydon.
- Can be difficult to find local people for affordable housing in small villages. Therefore good for small villages to cluster for affordable housing provision.
- Melbourn needs more sheltered housing.

Transport

- Better road maintenance, and snow clearing (Chishill and Heydon).
- Better public/community transport (Chishill and Heydon).
- Better buses (Melbourn)

Open Space

- No recorded comments

Community

- Village hub in Melbourn
- Keep policies to retain local pubs etc
- Chishill Parish Plan has worked well and mostly been delivered

Employment

- Keep local employment
- Keep shops as shops.
- Need new planning class to control number of hairdressers

DUXFORD, BASSINGBOURN, GILDEN MORDEN, LITLINGTON, THRILOW, FOWLMEERE

Housing

- Development can mean more people to sustain local services and use local facilities.
- Housing – Retain village frameworks. But Thriplow needs more sensible boundaries.
- Small houses are lost due to extensions making them large house.
- Keep village mix, a village needs a range of ages in the community
- Guilden Morden has difficulty finding rural affordable housing exception sites
- Viability of sites depending on market versus affordable housing.
- Need for a mix of housing.
- Retain rural character in Litlington.
- Working from home – adapting homes
- Concerns in Guilden Morden at control over development outside the Conservation Area.
- Housing and facilities link important
- Need Parish Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and a Local Plan that relate to each other
- Numbers of houses affects viability of local facilities

Transport

- Transport – Use of the car to get to rail stations but lack of car parking
- Congestion on roads. Improve the road network as more houses means more cars.

Open Space

- Open space – Thriplow, Fowlmere and Litlington have enough
- Protect open space

Community

- Community – Guilden Morden needs a village hall as does Bassingbourn and other villages. More housing in a village could help provide funding.
- Use community space better

Employment

- No more office and manufacturing venues needed
- Rural diversification so no more capacity required
- Employment – support local shops and small businesses

ARRINGTON, TOFT, BOURN

Housing

- Content with current system of village frameworks and rural exception sites.
- Want local control over village frameworks.
- Arrington supports the inclusion of some market housing in exception schemes to entice landowners to make land available.
- Bourn observed that sometimes additional funding is needed to unlock exception sites, e.g. to build an access road.

Transport

- Village priorities:
 - Bourn: cyclepaths

Open Space

- Village priorities:
 - Arrington: allotments, recreation space, playing fields, village hall refurbishment
 - Bourn: greenspaces, protection of employment sites

Community

- Parish Councils are working together.
- Village priorities:
 - Arrington: allotments, recreation space, playing fields, village hall refurbishment

Employment

- Village priorities:
 - Bourn: protection of employment sites

HARLTON, HASLINGFIELD

Housing

- Concern over conservation policies.
- Housing mix – need for 1 and 2 bedroom homes, and more variety e.g. apartments
- Maximise affordable housing on exception sites
- (Consider?) need together in (groups of?) local villages

Transport

- Key issues: transport, links to County plans
- Harlton – Key issue cycle paths
- Haslingfield – Key issue cycle paths

Open Space

- Harlton – Key issues open space, protection of recreation grounds

Community

- Do we need growth to improve services?

Employment

- No recorded comments

GENERAL POINTS

These were points recorded during the general discussion.

- Take Parish Council led proposals very seriously, listen to, respect and act on their concerns
- Need more consistency from SCDC especially on Conservation guidelines
- There is an issue about retrospective planning applications and enforcement
- A quicker method for dealing with exception sites is needed
- Need for precision over affordable housing need, really stick to criteria
- Affordable housing to meet the full demographic (not just for young families)
- Some bungalows are needed but these can struggle with density rules
- Need good design not low quality
- Sustain a real variety of housing sizes, loss of 2 beds
- Avoid a loss of local character and village liveability
- Avoid over development of plots
- Restrict permitted development rights
- In right places support district heating options and higher code standards to create sustainable communities
- Energy schemes especially for affordable