

Dursley Day Centre (01/08/14)

Councillor Jonathan Bird and Anita Gambie, NDP Project Administrator attended the Dursley Day Centre on Friday 1st August 2014 and facilitated an informal drop in session.

Approximately 20 people attended between 10am– 12.30 pm. The day centre is open 5 mornings a week and provides refreshments including light snacks to those who attend. It provides a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere and company to potentially isolated and vulnerable members of the local community in the 50+ age range.

This summary of discussions is captured under the headings in Neighbourhood Plan.

Housing

- Dursley has a lot of new housing. Many of these houses are too small, with buildings which are becoming taller.
- There is inadequate parking provision for many of the new dwellings and estates.
- Dursley can take appropriate size developments, examples include Library Terrace.
- New housing should be for locals and there needs to be a bigger supply of affordable housing.
- Many thought that they would be living in the same home in 5 years' time; however there were others that expected to move to smaller places within Dursley.
- There were a lot of views expressed about the quantity of new homes planned for Dursley and the subsequent impact in infrastructure.
- There was a question put for the Littlecombe development about how are the new houses going to connect with Dursley?
 1. There was recognition by many that land is at a premium in Dursley.
 2. Any new housing should fit in with the existing style of the current stock.
 3. There should not be too many modern houses.
- No more flats or high rise, nothing over 3 storey.
- Need 2-3 bed homes, particularly bungalows for elderly people to downsize and started homes.
- Not social housing, "too much trouble", yet also "what about poorer people" – there was debate about this item.
- Adaptive/adapted housing a good idea but never heard of it.
- Locate new housing towards A38 because of access and space.

Design

- Variety very often mentioned but need to move with the times.
- More for older people
- Not build too tall.
- Not pokey little windows.
- Not like a prison.
- Ideal features are/would be: fantastic new hospital, a by-pass/less busy traffic, surrounding countryside and trees, need more employment.
- Include in new developments: trees, greens, speed humps

Economy, business and employment

- Many of the comments generated a real sense of nostalgia for a time when there were three large employers in Dursley (Listers, Bymacks and Mawdsleys). Many referred to the scene of hundreds of employees walking up and down Long Street during lunch breaks and the end of the day.
- There were a number of comments made about the reduction in the number of business units at Littlecombe and the potential loss of new jobs.
- More should be done to promote the town as a tourist destination. B&B and other local businesses should work together on joint marketing initiatives.
- More apprenticeships should be available locally.
- Greater effort should go into reusing existing buildings.
- More retail, hotels, manufacturing, food outlets (also fewer cafes), at shoe shop, a clothes shop
- More tourist interest, cinema. Good for supermarkets.
- Need to improve Silver Street pavement.
- Need crossing by bus station.
- Better policing on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Shut Capones at 1am.
- Lots of comments were made about trying to support the local shops through buying products locally.
- The shops shut too early on Saturday and Wednesday.
- The Vintage clothes shop and Clifton camera shop are encouraging visitors from outside the area into Dursley.
- There are some products you are not able to get in Dursley, a broad range of shoes and clothes.
- Many local people would like to see Parsonage street thriving again.

Green spaces/Environment

- Dursley would benefit from having more allotments.
- There is a lot of wildlife around Poets Corner.
- Not build on green space, leave as fields.
- Not make children's playgrounds
- Too many cars
- Woods all around the town, lovely to keep and see the fields.
- See badgers, rabbits, foxes, deer and all the birds. Feed the birds.
- Educate the children about the environment, to keep it.
- Important green spaces = The Rec, Long Street Green (put back trees they were lovely), Woodmancote Green, Twinberrow Woods, Ganzells Farm, Kingshill Play Park.

Facilities and Services (also see economy above)

- There were lots of comments made about the impact of rerouting the Stroud bus (21) and subsequent reduction in the numbers using the day centre. The bus no longer stops at the bus station. Passengers now have to catch it at either Castle Street or outside St Remo's restaurant.
- Lots of clubs use the community centre.
- The local churches work well together.

- The parish rooms at St James Church are well used.
- The transformation of the Chantry Centre is viewed by many as very positive in bringing some vibrancy back to Long Street.
- Good library, health centres but Doctors waiting list 10 days.
- Fast broadband all over (used for Skype a lot)
- Schools are good but what about the new people?

Getting around /local transport

- Dursley needs to maintain its bus station.
- Operate more frequent and later buses, better bus service and more stops up Woodmancote.
- There are difficulties crossing the road at the bottom of Silver Street. The top of Woodmancote is also challenging to cross on foot.
- There are problems with the pavement at Silver Street.
- There are not enough parking spaces at the railway station in Cam.
- One resident raised the question about whether the local road structure and surfaces are fit for purpose.
- There should be 20mph limit in the town.
- There is a blind corner outside bus station, need speed bumps and pedestrian crossing to Doctor's surgery.