

Zumba Class (10/09/14)

The Zumba Class was held on 10th September 2014 in Dursley.

Attended by Krystyna Dembny (Volunteer and Environment and Greenspaces lead).

Feedback was gathered from the 8 members of the class and 1 newcomer to Dursley. All members were aged over 60 years and women.

1 comment from the dance lead (aged 20 years+).

Housing

What type of housing do you think Dursley needs?

- 1 bedroom flats (from the dance lead)
- 3 bed housing for families.
- Bungalows (for the aged and less mobile population)
- Only 1 person said they might need to downsize to a smaller house in the future.
- The need for housing for families was a unanimous agreement.

Where do you think new homes should be located in Dursley?

- The overall feeling was that Dursley is overcrowded, due to its topography. That any building after Littlecombe should be concentrated on land in Cam giving easy access to the A38.

In 5 years time, do you expect to still be living in Dursley?

- All expected to remain in Dursley, this could be due to the age group surveyed who have been in Dursley for many years.

Design

What do you think new buildings and housing in Dursley should look like?

(e.g. building materials, design features, housing style, housing layout, room sizes, gardens, storage space, driveways, building height, building type, bin stores, accessibility, parking, etc.

- The overall feeling of the group is that the design of the houses should vary (one said "Not like in Crest Nicolson"). There should be adequate parking on drives or in garages to prevent road parking.
- No tall (4 storey) housing (not in keeping).
- There should be gardens or at least good sized green spaces and play areas. (The Leap? At Crest Nicolson was considered "pathetic").

If you were looking for your ideal home in Dursley, what three features are most important to you?

General view:

- Neighbours and neighbourhood
- Position and location (good views)
- Convenience to amenities

One respondent:

- Garage

All said they liked living in Dursley because of the nice scenery and views. Several of the group said that that affordability was a key feature for their children and grandchildren.

What other design features do you think should be included in any new developments in Dursley?

(e.g. open spaces, connections to and from homes to other places, shared/communal spaces, environment, energy efficiency, , conservation of historic features, road/estate layout, links to landscape, home zones, safe residential streets, etc.)

5 out of 8 said:

- Transport links appeared to be important – bus services to Gloucester, Stroud and Bristol as well as the rail service which was restricted due to parking issues.
- An opinion expressed was that the road links would be overwhelmed with significant rise in development.

3 out of 8 said:

- More green areas and trees should be included to merge with the overall surrounding of Dursley.

The local economy, business and employment

What type of businesses and jobs do you think Dursley needs?

- Retail – to encourage better range of retail shops to reduce business rates.
- Manufacturing – there was a feeling that local people could not get local jobs.
- Leisure & tourism – this was flagged up as an underdeveloped area. No B&B's or Hotels to cater for the increase in tourist numbers. Dursley as a route of the Cotswold way needs to spruce up areas where the walker go through.
- Health service – this would only offer specialist jobs.

Comments:

- Overwhelming agreement that free, long stay car parking should be maintained.

Where should they be located in Dursley?

- Retail and tourism should be Town centre based.

What could be done to improve Dursley's town centre?

Overwhelming:

- Spruce up back of shops along Castle Street. Improve frontages of Silver Street.
- Clean up weeds and pavement and generally improve tidiness.
- Reduce business rates and first time occupiers of businesses to get them started.
- Wide range of shops.

Our local environment and green spaces

What do you think we can do to protect, conserve and enhance Dursley's local environment?

Single or concurring opinions:

- No building below tree line of the woods
- Make sure no building takes place on the protected green areas such as memorial rec ground.
- To stop the cutting down of trees on new developments.
- To make sure new housing has adequate gardens.
- To get the community involved in protecting wildlife.

Which green spaces in Dursley are important to you and why?

- The Rec.
- Gardens
- Woods
- Areas round the woods, which people use.
- Play areas for grandchildren
(When informed about the importance of wildlife corridor, all concurred that there should be preserved!!!)

What can we do to make our community in Dursley more sustainable?

Individual/group ideas:

- Improve transport links
- Make Dursley affordable for families as this gives more stable population
- Develop local employment
- Make the most of the natural environment and the fact that Dursley has pretty views and attracts walkers.

What can we do to encourage wildlife and biodiversity in Dursley?

Individual/group ideas:

- Preserve the woods

- Preserve areas below the tree line.
- Make wildlife corridors (after group told of their importance)
- Let public know of the biodiversity
- Get schools involved
- People to encourage wildlife into their gardens. All seemed to like the bird feeders.

Local services, facilities and infrastructure

What type of services, facilities and infrastructure do you think Dursley needs? (Which 3 are most important?)

Mixed responses:

- Health services (majority)
- Shopping and retail (good range to encourage customers)
- Transport infrastructure (unanimous)

Comments

- Reduce business rates, allow new shops to become established.

Where do you think services and facilities should be located in Dursley?

- Within the Dursley area (given the choices this seemed self-evident)

Getting around: local transport

What type of transport and infrastructure to help you get around do you think Dursley needs? (Which 3 do you think are most important?)

- Bus services
- Train services
- Parking facilities (important)

Also:

- Improvement to existing roads (get rid of pot holes)
- Keep footpaths and pavements clean (Long Street was singled out for criticism as being littered and not a good advert for tourists and visitors). Also path uneven.

Where should this go?

Where it already exists.

How should this be provided?

For Council to arrange!