

Canewdon Parish Workshop

1 Summary of Notes and Findings

Comments received during the Presentation Stage

See Presentation document for full Presentation given at the Workshop

- Consideration of local businesses should be sure to extend to the farm shop, Shepherd & Dog pub, Baltic Wharf, Essex Marina and the self-employed – not just the businesses in the village
- Residents and Parish Council want tourism to grow:
 - Need differing types of advertising – not every demographic can or want to use internet. Paper leaflets still important and need to be accessible
 - Rural areas have very poor internet – this might put off potential visitors and make it harder for visitors staying in rural b&bs/hotels to learn about local attractions
 - Superfast broadband available in the village but is unreliable
 - Possibility of Superfast Essex rolling out across the Parish
- Need for certain types of housing to ensure local people can stay in the area
 - Link between types of employment and types of housing

Comments received during the Walkabout Stage

- Village hall: residents and PC would appreciate new Village hall. Options to replace or redevelop the Village hall were discussed including the possibility of a b&b or social housing. It was commented on that the site might be considered a rural exception site for the purposes of planning. It was noted that the hall is currently used by Southend Wheelers cycling club on Sundays.
- Playing fields: Cricket pavilion currently maintained by players? It was noted that the playing fields are very well used after schools and at evenings and weekends.
- Old Post office: The opportunity to redevelop the premises as a co-op or community-run business was discussed. Some residents liked the idea of a local café/shop serving local produce – particularly given its picturesque conservation area surroundings. Alternative uses could be equally community-minded, e.g. pharmacy, library etc.

- Redundant garage courts: Possibility for infill housing?
- High Street: narrow street and designated as a historic conservation area. Good views and character. Conservation area and local feeling that any future change must add to this character and value not detract from it
- Village Green: former military buildings, possible site for village fetes or events.
- St Nicholas church: located within a picturesque conservation area. Stocks are great tourist attraction but there are no signs advertising them neither inside nor outside the village. Church is still used for weddings and other functions benefitting from picturesque surroundings and views. Views from top of church fantastic – want to preserve.
- Allocated site SER7: fantastic views from Scotts Hall junction with Apton Hall road and even further of the church; noted that on a clear day the church is visible from Southend. Consensus was that the development should be sensitive to this and frame it rather than detract from it.
- Junction of Gardiners Lane and Anchor Lane: view we want to protect
- Allotments: 44 plots of which ~4 are available. No waiting list at present. Element of self- and community- maintenance

Comments received during the Discussion Stage

See Map documents for full annotations and notes made at this stage

- Need to attract and involve younger people – appropriate mix of house sizes and growth/improvement of local attractions
- Older residents are finding it hard to downsize – lack of 2-bed properties. Future development needs a good mix of housing
- Need 'brown tourism signs' at strategic locations across the district to advertise attractions – tourists are currently drawn to attractions in other parishes which do have signs. Current signage across the parish very basic, example is the main junction into Canewdon which only has a small white sign.
- Need better web presence for local attractions, noted that most people use the web to discover places to visit and current online presence for Canewdon small in comparison to other parishes – opportunity for parish-led website?

- Any increase in tourist attractions needs to go arm-in-arm with an increase in visitor accommodation, i.e. b&bs, inns etc., as well as supporting services, i.e. restaurants, information centre etc.
- Possibility of relocating the Village hall – playing field could be an option with the village hall site then redeveloped
- Tree planting – can apply to woodland trust for ‘free trees.’ Local feeling that flora in the parish needs to be maintained and the net quantity certainly not reduced.

Comments received during the Visioning Stage

- Utilities generally need improving, especially broadband. Issue of greater development and impacts on sewerage were raised and will need to be considered.
- Protection of views is paramount and it is important any built form respects this – example used of St Pauls in London which can be viewed from as far as Kings Cross. Residents noted that you can view St Nicholas church from Stambridge and Fossetts Farm area and agreed that any future development must be sensitive to the fantastic views across the parish
- Need to sustain and maintain the local school – possibility of partnerships with local stakeholders such as the RSPB. Obvious need for more childcare facilities including early years
- Support local businesses – Baltic wharf expressed interest to PC of employing local people
- Grow sustainable transport in the parish, e.g. cycle routes. These are in progress but need to be continually added to and improved to provide greater access and connectivity. Point was raised that existing cycle routes lack basic facilities such as benches, bins which might deter visitors
- Improve local and regional awareness of Wallasea; continue to build partnership with Wallasea businesses

Next steps

- Parish Council and parishioners to be continually engaged and notified of updates
- Economic Development: LEADER funding available (see Presentation document), total of £1.8m available in funding for rural areas; all of Canewdon is eligible
- Issues & Options document Autumn 2016 : Open, visioning, range of options. To meet with parish before hand to ensure compatibility

- Neighbourhood Plan : in early stages with primarily admin work being done, meetings every 2 months currently
- Local housing need: Parish council survey to get average household type? Data available on Census.

2 Summary of Feedback

How informative did you find the day?: Respondents answered an average of 4.7 out of 5

How would you rate the presentations?: Respondents answered an average of 4.6 out of 5

How would you rate the discussions?: Respondents answered an average of 4.8 out of 50

Respondents felt that aspects that were done well included:

- The walk around the Village
- The work on maps
- The presentations and discussions
- The opportunity for interaction

Respondents felt that aspects that could be improved on included:

- Clearer presentations – was difficult to read the words on the screen due to the lighting
- Encouraging more parishioners to attend including the option of a different time of day/weekend

Respondents felt that the project should be taken forward by:

- Expanding it to more areas and including more parishes
- Keeping lines of communication open and continuing to consult the parish stakeholders
- Ensuring any updates are communicated