

Launch NDP event summary



BERRY HILL, CHRISTCHURCH, EDGE END NDP AREA

LAUNCH NDP EVENT SUMMARY

General Comments

- The NDP event was called 'Our Plan' and held as drop in sessions over 2 days. There were 23 interpretation panels giving NDP information, information known about the area so far and why it is important for people to engage with the process.
- The event was advertised through:
The West Dean Parish website and newsletter which reaches every household in the parish
Local newspaper press release
Flyers which were sent to all parents and carers of children at Berry Hill primary school and Lakers secondary school
Large banner was posted on the railings facing the road outside the secondary school advertising the event
Email invitations to key stakeholders and partners
- The event took place on Thursday 3rd October between 3.30pm and 8.00pm and Friday 4th October between 10.00am and 8.00pm at Lakers secondary school and held as drop in sessions
- 160 people signed in but more people attended as some arrived early, some late and others walked past the desks and could not be persuaded to sign. There were also many young people from the school attending the event who did not sign in. The total was probably 250.
- The average time people spent at the event was 45 minutes- some spent over an hour reading interpretation panels, asking questions and interacting with the displays and filling in the questionnaire. Members of the Steering Group, West Dean Parish Council, FOD District Council and the Glos Rural Community Council Community Adviser attended on both days. Other attendees included the MP's Agent, FOD Planning Officers, Homes and Community Agency

Consultation

- The questionnaire was designed using priorities from previous consultations. There were 2 parts which set out headings and asked people to put the headings in order of importance to you. Part 1 from 1 to 14 (the most important number 1 to least important 14). Part 2 in order of preference 1 to 15 (the most important number 1 to least important 15)
- The survey was analysed externally

Key Points From the Questionnaire

Of 160 questionnaire filled in these were the priorities in % that was identified as the top 7 under the headings in the questionnaire.

Part 1 The top 6 priorities are: Education, Facilities for younger people, Sports facilities, Employment, The natural environment & Maintaining the local character of the area

Public safety & traffic	47%
Maintaining the local character of the area	55%
The design & appearance of buildings	32%
Heritage of the area	47%
Sports facilities	61%
Transport	34%
The natural environment	57%
Arts facilities	33%
Health facilities	49%
Employment	60%
Education	77%
Affordable housing to buy	32%
Facilities for older people	52%
Facilities for younger people	66%

Part 2. The top 6 priorities are: Improved sports facilities for the community, Places to meet & socialise, Job opportunities in tourism & service industries, Facilities for tourists & local people, Surgery and health services locally and jointly - More young people living & working in the area and Job opportunities in the creative & IT industries locally.

More young people living & working in the area	49%
Places to meet & socialise	62%
Facilities for tourists & local people	58%
Surgery and health services locally	57%
Live/ work units	19%
Energy efficient homes	24%
Arts facilities for the community	35%
Studio craft workers spaces	20%
Space to showcase local arts & crafts	16%

Improved sports facilities for the community	65%
Variety of housing (rented, bought, self-build, flats, bungalows etc.) to meet local needs.	35%
More to do locally	40%
Job opportunities in the creative & IT industries locally	49%
Job opportunities in tourism & service industries	59%
Developments which are distinctive & encourage a sense of community	47%
A variety of shops in the area	39%
Transport which links up to other areas of the Forest of Dean	41%

The following was how the area might change in the next 5 years. The top 3 statements were ticked.

Sports and leisure, community services and opportunities to experience outdoor space were the top 3 priorities

A variety of local shops which will meet local needs	28
A variety of sports & cultural leisure facilities which the whole community can use and enjoy	98
Space which offer work opportunities for business and self employed	39
A safe place with opportunities to experience & appreciate outdoor space	54
Provision of services and facilities locally which the whole community can gain access to.	74
Low density, good quality housing which encourages a sense of community and pride in the area	43
A place where heritage and the environment can be valued & shared	45

Key Points From Comments

People were asked what they value under specific headings

Natural Environment	Built Environment	Heritage	Community/amenities	Development	Sport	Education
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People really value the beauty of the natural environment, open space and the freedom to walk in open spaces and the forest	Value peace and quiet and do not want large development	Sense of history and pride	Lovely place to bring up a family-value community & community spirit but need more places for people to meet. Theatre -2 nd largest in the county. School, pubs, shops, post office.	Recognise a need for development but controlled and link to developing local opportunities for people in the local economy. Light pollution and sewage were a concern.	Cycle tracks. Leisure centre +swimming. Paintball	Protect the school and Theatre. Use the school for events
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What Next

- The Homes and Communities Agency will hold an Enquiry by Design event, open to the community, to concentrate specifically on the HCA owned Five Acres site but will include the immediate surrounding area of the Rugby club and Berry Hill Primary school
- The results of the consultation will be disseminated to the community, stakeholders and partners through the communication channels
- A workshop is planned for the steering group and stakeholders to gather evidence collected so far and an event will be organised in early 2014 to consult with the community to present evidence and explore priorities.