

Analysis of survey forms on emerging issues for the Neighbourhood Plan for Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group meeting on 4th September 2013.

Forms completed Summer 2013

Theme	Source	Agree	Disagree	No view
Preserving Ashby's identity as a friendly historic market town at the heart of the National Forest.	Food Festival forms	95%	2%	3%
	Ashby School forms	80%	4%	16%
Concerns about existing infrastructure coping with additional houses especially health centre and schools.	Food Festival forms	93%	5%	2%
	Ashby School forms	53%	11%	36%
The town centre is valued but room for improvement to retail and business mix and car parking.	Food Festival forms	91%	5%	4%
	Ashby School forms	65%	17%	17%
Where there is development it needs the right housing mix and needs to be in right locations.	Food Festival forms	91%	5%	4%
	Ashby School forms	54%	18%	28%
Need multi-functional community facility and more community events in the town.	Food Festival forms	89%	7%	4%
	Ashby School forms	64%	10%	26%

Need facilities for teenagers and for a growing elderly population.	Food Festival forms	84%	4%	13%
	Ashby School forms	87%	4%	9%
Need to encourage a wider range of employment opportunities in town and utilise business parks.	Food Festival forms	84%	5%	11%
	Ashby School forms	65%	9%	26%
Concerns about transport infrastructure and congestion on key routes and in town centre.	Food Festival forms	74.5%	14.5%	11%
	Ashby School forms	56%	14%	30%
Open spaces are appreciated but could be developed further and put to greater use.	Food Festival forms	56%	40%	4%
	Ashby School forms	56%	27%	17%
Lack of public transport.	Food Festival forms	39%	18%	43%
	Ashby School forms	39%	31%	30%

Comments on Ashby's Future

Additional comments from the Food and Drink Festival, online and from pupils at Ashby School

Note: Most respondents did not provide additional comments.

Town centre:

The town centre has great little shops, but others comment on the mix of shops, for example need more shops selling local produce, Marks and Spencers. The number of fast food establishments is concerning. Five people commented on issues around car parking. Two people wanted more support of businesses setting themselves up and council tax was seen as hampering new businesses.

Students at Ashby School also had strong views on the mix of shops in the town centre, with a desire for more shops that appeal to their generation. In common with people who came along to the drop in sessions there was a feeling that there were too many charity shops and fast food takeaways. However four students wanted a Macdonalds. The range of restaurants needs improving, with one student wanting high class restaurants, hotels and tourist attractions.

Pedestrian safety on Market Street was mentioned by one student and better car parking.

Community:

Four people commented positively about community events like the food festival and street party. With the town being seen as a lovely place to live, especially for children. Other suggestions were to have a French theme when promoting the town and that the community facilities at schools could be better utilised.

Five students from Ashby School felt there needed to be a wider range of activities for teenagers and young people, preferably free. With the hope that this would reduce antisocial behaviour.

Open spaces:

Three people wanted no building on open spaces. There were differing comments on the upkeep of the parks, some criticism but also some praise. One person commented that the play equipment and skate park needed replacing, whilst someone else praised the new play equipment at Westfields. One comment was that more could be done to attract people to the castle.

Three students had additional comments on open spaces, one wanted more recreational space, another had concerns about dog fouling and the third wanted the skate park replacing and felt the swimming pool could be larger.

Infrastructure

Two people expressed concern about the schools and health centre coping with the new developments. One respondent was worried about congestion from the health centre.

Two students at Ashby School were concerned about the impact of new houses on the local infrastructure, especially schools being able to cope.

Transport

There was concern about potential traffic congestion as the town grows, with a suggestion of two roundabouts on Nottingham Road. Speeding and dangerous driving on Smisby Road and on Market Street was of concern.

One person commented that public transport could be improved, with links to East Midlands Airport. There was also a suggestion that a tram system be introduced.

Ashby School students raised concerns about bus routes (3 students), bus fares (1 student) and the need for trains (1 student).

Development

A number of respondents (4) felt no more houses were needed, especially on the green belt. Whilst others commented on the mix and style of housing, with a lack of bungalows and affordable homes for first time buyers and people on low incomes and a desire for more imaginative designs.

Students from Ashby School were concerned about the impact of HS2, with 7 students providing additional comments on this. Other comments from the students concerned the need to preserve the character and identity of the town and worries about too many houses being built.

Other

Three other general comments were made:

- More information on how the town council uses its portion of the council tax.
- Parking for residents with no parking on their properties.
- Cycle routes from the centre of Ashby to the National Forest.

Consultation with Explorer Scouts

The Town Clerk conducted a consultation session with over 40 Explorer Scouts based in Ashby. The Scouts were asked about what they liked, didn't like about Ashby and what is missing from the town.

There were 12 comments on what they liked about the town, these can be summarised as (the number of respondents is given in brackets):

- Facilities, specifically the leisure centre and swimming pool (2)
- The appearance of the town(1)
- The open spaces close the town centre (2)
- The town centre, specifically shops and food outlets (7)

There were 7 comments about what they didn't like about the town, these are summarised as:

- The Bath Grounds is seen as being ruined (1)
- The town centre profile, mentioning the mix of shops (5)
- The atmosphere with intimidating groups of young people (1)

19 Explorers commented on what was missing from the town, their comments can be summarised as:

- Open spaces, with a better cricket pavilion on the Bath Grounds and a good skate park (2)
- A venue for bands to play, like the Ibstock Palace (2)
- Better public toilets (1)
- A cinema/ 10 pin bowling (2)
- A better mix of shops in the town centre (10)
- A train station (2)

Consultation with key stage 2 pupils at Ashby C of E Primary School

The Deputy Town Clerk conducted a consultation session with 12 key stage 2 pupils from the school, asking them about what they liked and didn't like about Ashby and what was missing in the town.

There were 16 comments on what they liked about Ashby, these can be summarised, with the number of comments in brackets, as:

- Facilities:
 - Schools (2)
 - Leisure facilities (2)

- Dentists, doctors and entertainment (1)
- Atmosphere, the people (2) and lively atmosphere
- The open spaces, football pitch (1), Hood park play area (1) and countryside (1)
- The factories (1)
- Specific shops, e.g. sweet shop, Greggs (4)

There were 20 comments on what the children didn't like about Ashby:

- Open spaces, with parks far away, over grown trees and people chopping trees down (3)
- The facilities, lack of a crèche (1), school (4) and the state of the fire station (1)
- The environment, people dropping litter (3) and dog poo (1)
- Town centre profile, lack of sweet shops and some takeaways (4)
- Employment, jobs being far away (2)
- Patches on the road (1)

There were a lot of comments, 139, on what they would want that Ashby doesn't have:

- About open spaces with a range of suggestions about what they would like to see e.g. fishing lake, pretty flowers, a dog park, dog poo powered lights, lots of space, a fountain and statue of the Mayor. (17)
- Community provision: parades, talent show, fair, circus etc (8)
- Transport: more buses (1), a train station (1)
- There were a lot of comments on the facilities (41), suggestions that were suggested by more than one pupil were:
 - Chocolate dispenser/ fountain (4)
 - Hospital (4)
 - Zoo (3)
 - Theme park (7)
 - Cinema (3)
- There were 41 comments on shops, restaurants and takeaways they would like to see in Ashby.
- There were suggestions for factories and businesses that could come to Ashby (13) and the need for more jobs (3).
- There were 5 suggestions for more development e.g. bigger houses, skyscrapers and a new castle!
- 9 comments were more general and not really related to the Neighbourhood Plan, they covered topics ranging from nice pavements to the head teacher being paid more.

Consultation with key stage 2 pupils at Willesley Primary School

The Deputy Town Clerk conducted a consultation session with 12 key stage 2 pupils from the school, asking them about what they liked and didn't like about Ashby and what was missing in the town.

There were 25 comments on what they liked about Ashby, these can be summarised, with the number of comments in brackets, as:

- Leisure facilities (2) and good food and baby clubs
- The open spaces, Bath Grounds (2), football pitches (2), National Forest and places to go (2).
- The nice houses (2)
- Specific shops, restaurants and takeaways e.g. sweet shop, Ask (8)

There were 27 comments on what the children didn't like about Ashby:

- Open spaces, not wanting houses of the circus on the Bath Grounds (2) and there are not many parks (1)
- The facilities: paying for toilets (1), lack of toilets (1) and a need for more hotels (1)
- The environment, people dropping litter and cigarettes (7), more bins on the Bath Grounds (2) and people leaving litter in changing rooms at Hood Park (1), graffiti (1)
- Town centre profile, lack of sweet shops and too many takeaways (5)
- Pot holes (2)
- People swearing in town (2)
- Need less houses (1)

There were a lot of comments, 108, on what they would want that Ashby doesn't have:

- About open spaces with a range of suggestions about what they would like to see e.g. more cycle routes, paths and parks, a dog park, football pitches, a fountain and statue of the Queen. (9)
- Protecting the environment with more bins (2), solar panels (1) and eco houses (1)
- Community provision, concerts (1)
- Transport: more buses (4), a train station (5), trams (1), mini airport (1) and more roads (1)
- There were a lot of comments on the facilities (38), suggestions that were suggested by more than one pupil were:
 - Zoo (5)
 - Theme Park (7)

- More or bigger schools (9), including a private school and disabled school
 - More car parks (5)
- There were 38 comments on shops and restaurants they would like to see in Ashby.
- One pupil wanted more jobs.
- There was one suggestion for more cottages.
- 4 comments were more general and not really related to the Neighbourhood Plan, they covered topics ranging from pets to decorations.