

Neighbourhood Plan Environment Focus Group Meeting 7th July 2016 with Kathryn Jukes

Present: Chairman Paul Beanland, Antony Croser, Nick Fletcher, Angie Gair, David Barnet, Christopher Turner, Tim Hicks, Kathryn Jukes

Essentially Kathryn is now working on the Environmental Policies, these are the notes from discussions that accompany the work done so far:

Footpath policies

Split into two; 1) existing footpaths to make safe and; 2) what happens if there is any development.

To protect the footpath network from development. What is important to the towns, the ability to walk everywhere, the function the footpaths provide, links and connectivity, one urban area to another, exercise, leisure and recreation. Create the core policies then support with examples and explanatory text.

In new development scenarios the design aspect is important, not just the creation of thin corridors with fence boards either side through estates, look at aesthetics, amenity when providing and creating the new.

New cycle and footbridge over railway piers.

In the policy emphasise the lack of safety at the existing crossing, especially for pedestrians, and at the very least, encourage a bridge somewhere along the line to improve pedestrian flow and help in terms of safety.

Riverside and island.

Designate as open space. Encourage all new development to face that way, i.e. towards river. Needs a plan along river showing what we would like to see, i.e. elements of design, picnic area, etc.

Orchard fields.

Open up the archaeology that is hidden and display behind glass, provide a kiosk or a visitors centre. Recreate some of the past. Make orchard fields part of a Roman trail around the town, quality trail leaflets, with information boards, all against the backdrop of good landscaping.

Open Space.

In general, a lot of these need designating as local green open space, i.e. Norton Grove tree screen buffer, Scotts Hill, Lady Spring Wood.

Public access to school fields.

Abandoned. We will not be taking this any further.

Control and influence open space on new development.

More for the local authority and the developer to sort between themselves. Town council can have a say on what they would like to see at the time of their planning response.

Air Quality

The group appreciates that this is an important ongoing issue. Need facts, technical data, so we can bullet point the headline data in order to make sense of what the problem really is.

Wentworth Street Car Park

Keep lower deck car parking and upper deck create some form of development, i.e. hotel or apartments.

Green Streets

Not planning, needs a non-planning statement to encourage people to have window boxes.