



Reports of meetings with youth groups in the villages

12th November 2014. Meeting with a youth group at St Mary's Church. To get some feedback from the group aged between 11 & 16 years. They were very articulate and had some very firm views.

First, we discussed the good and bad aspects of living in Walberton:

Good: Village School and its playground, Shops, Recreation ground, Village Hall, Easy road layout, Golf Club, Church and its people, The Holly Tree PH, The pool at the Hilton, The fact that the school and recreation ground are surrounded by open fields, No crime.

Bad: Speed of traffic, especially in Yapton Lane, Congestion, Isolation from other facilities, Lack of youth facilities such as a sports hall and skate board park, No safe route to Barnham, Poor Broadband, Poor limited bus service.

Second, we wondered what could be done to improve matters:

Traffic: enforce speed limits, lower to 20 mph in The Street, extend 30 mph up to the A27, stagger the start of school classes.

Isolation: cycle path to Barnham, more buses later in the evening

Youth facilities: skate board park, indoor games room, social space, zip wire.

Then we briefly discussed the sort of houses we need and where they should go:

- Cheaper houses for local people
- Prefer several small developments rather than a big one
- Tuppens Field is very precious as a setting & no development there!
- However, support the idea of some development to fund a skate board park

March 2015. A meeting with the School Council of Walberton and Binsted CE School. The School Council is made up of 14 council representatives; 2 students from each class. Students therefore range from ages 4 to 11. Prior to the meeting Council representatives had spoken to their classes about the following issues:

- What do you like/dislike about Fontwell, Walberton and Binsted
- What new ideas/improvements do you have for Fontwell, Walberton and Binsted

The children were asked to complete post-it notes and stuck them onto large maps, I Like/Dislike. Students used 18 post-it notes to indicate "likes" and 6 post-it notes to indicate "dislikes".

Likes

- Park in Walberton (x 8 responses) including
- The school (x 3 responses)

- The shop and Holly Tree [students recognised these places as important to the village]
- The Church (x 2 responses)
- The woods surrounding Fontwell, Walberton and Binsted (x 4 responses)
- A number of students from different age groups spoke about the villages “friendly feel” and feeling of “peace and quiet”.

Dislikes

- Busy roads/traffic (particularly in the centre of Walberton and around the Church (x 4 responses)
- Parking on the road
- Litter and dog mess in the park
- New houses

On new houses, students in all year groups expressed concern over the building of new houses - specially, they felt that new houses would mean more traffic (their primary concern about the villages currently) and less space to play. This prompted a discussion about the need for new housing and the fact that 50 new houses had to be built somewhere in Fontwell, Walberton or Binsted in the near future. The older children did then recognise that new housing was important and that the issues were then a) where they were built and b) the type of housing to be built. We had a short discussion about these points and there was a feeling that a range of housing types would be best (for young and old people).

New Ideas/suggested improvements

- Football goals for everyone to use in the park
- Improved play park, particularly for older children (years 5 and 6)
- More equipment for older children. The following ideas were recorded e.g. basketball court, rock climbing wall, swimming pool [somewhere in the six villages area], cycle trail, exercise equipment, skate park
- Golf course for young people to use
- A library
- Cycle Paths in the villages
- A path between the villages e.g. between Walberton and Yapton

There were a lot of comments about “keeping the village green” - students spoke about the importance of the park, village green, trees.

25th April 2015. Quotes from the Drop In Day giving the views of young people:

- As a young person I have enjoyed growing up in Walberton and think that new housing should aim to attract young families
- As a young person I would like housing in Walberton to be spread throughout the village and not concentrated in one area
- As a young person I would like an increased bus service, particularly to

Chichester as Walberton can feel isolated

- Different things to play on in the play park in Fontwell
- Keep the villages as they are - quiet
- I like the woods to play in and explore