

## SUTTON VALENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP

Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 7:00pm at the Village Hall

Present: Barry Armstrong, Peter Coleman, Brian Jones, Mark London, Eve Poulter, Eileen Riden

Administrators: Janet Burnett, Lorraine Cook

1. Apologies for absence received from John Davis and Tabitha Harriet Mills
2. Minutes of meeting 2/2/16 were agreed
3. Timeline for completion of plan - work has commenced. Awaiting dates from Flo Churchill
4. Housing Survey update....Survey and accompanying letter were agreed, with a few minor amendments to be ratified by email.
5. Notice boards all updated
6. Working committee updates
  - I. Planning....No meeting has been held
  - II. Business....No meeting has been held. BA/EP to write up the questions for the survey and to format. Businesses to be contacted.
  - III. Roads....JD circulated details of last meeting including crash report and vehicle count prior to the meeting
  - IV. Infrastructure....PC reported on the youth survey and circulated an initial assessment of responses (attached). PC to put together questions to be brought forward to a meeting with the Independent School
7. Locality and grant returns - 1745.91 to be returned as underspent
8. Finance
9. No Any Other Business - discussion item only

Meeting closed 21:00

## Initial assessment of responses

There were 30 responses ranging in age from 8 to 20. There was an almost even spread of gender. A third of respondents were aged 12 and 13. 4 responses were from primary aged young people and 4 had left school. The others were in secondary school.

In terms of schools the largest contingent was Cornwallis School that provided a third of respondents, the remainder provided a scatter over the whole area.

Nearly two thirds of the respondents lived in households with 4 or 5 people living in them.

Overwhelmingly most young people travelled to school or college by bus with a significant number being given a lift in a car.

In terms of nearness of close relatives there was a fairly even division between living in Sutton Valence, living in nearby villages and living far away.

In terms of hobbies and pastimes the young people reported a strong interest in active sport with two thirds taking part in physical activities such as football, dance, swimming and equestrian. Conversely computers and TV watching were low scores.

In terms of getting around the village most young people walked around the village either alone or with friends. They also reported a strong reliance on lifts in cars. Cycling attracted a relatively low score – less than a third.

Travelling outside the village was overwhelmingly by bus or lifts in cars.

In terms of what the young people reported about what they liked about living in Sutton Valence there was a strong appreciation about the quiet village with pleasant people and good friends. 4 respondents replied that liked nothing about the village. 2 liked the pubs!

In terms of concerns about living in Sutton Valence, a third expressed concerns about traffic on the main roads and side roads. Half had concerns about personal safety. Over half expressed that 'there was nothing to do'. A significant minority expressed concerns about bullying and to a lesser extent drugs.

There was a unanimous perception that Sutton Valence was a healthy place to live.

Two thirds of the respondents did not want to stay in Sutton Valence when they grew up. Those that would like to stay expressed a strong preference to live in a house.

Nearly two thirds of respondents said they would be interested in part time jobs if ever they had the opportunity. The largest response was café work and 'anything to get money'!

In terms of what they young people would like to see in the village in the future three quarters of the respondents wanted their own youth club and a third wanted better parks – in particular one with an astro-turf pitch. Other significant requests included shops and take-aways.

In terms of activities they would like see provided in the village the responses linked in well with their expressed wish to see a youth club. A third wanted to enjoy dance, a half music and another third computer games. The remaining responses saw a wide scatter of interests such as swimming, rugby and trampolining. Presumably these young people travel outside the village for these activities at the moment

### **Overall observations.**

The young people in the village understand that Sutton Valence is largely a safe, healthy place to live. In general they have a good circle of friends. Most have to commute outside the village to go to school or college. There is almost complete dependence on the bus service or lifts in cars. There is an overall view that living here is 'boring' and that there are few activities provided. There is a strong desire to engage in sport and physical activity. Most do not want to live here when they grow up.

## Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood planning is about developing a framework for housing and business development. It aims to put such development in a local context. It appears that, if the young people are to be listened to, then they would like to feel that their aspirations should be incorporated in the Plan. Building development is now accompanied by substantial investment in infrastructure and the young people have been quite forthcoming in suggesting what they would like see to meet their needs. These may well be aspirational wishes but they have been quite clearly expressed and the Neighbourhood Plan group will be able to consider their merits in due course.

Neighbourhood Plan - youth survey.docx