



Views of residents on “Economy & Jobs”

Feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire provided the views of residents on many aspects of village life. In this month’s article we have summarised the key messages that were received on economy and jobs. The intention is to use this feedback, alongside input from other subject areas, as the basis for preparing the policies and proposals that will eventually become the pre-consultation document of the Neighbourhood Plan team. This will be made available for comment later in the year.

Location of retail outlets: The majority of respondents wanted to see any new shops located in the area where other shops already exist, although there was a significant minority who felt that at least some additional shops should be located within or at least closer to the Dovehouse area, with suggestions including retail expansion near the new Sainsbury’s store. A disadvantage with existing shopping areas was seen to be the lack of adequate parking facilities and the jaded appearance of the Precinct area. Suggestions were made to reinvigorate the Precinct area, prevent long term (all day) parking near the shopping areas and introducing new features such as a regular (monthly?) “farmers” market in the Precinct area.

Ideas for new shops to attract people to the area included a delicatessen, dry cleaners, shoe repairers, green grocer, gift shop and opticians although it was appreciated that their presence would only happen if businesses felt that this would represent an attractive proposition. There was a lot of interest in having more restaurants available in Wellesbourne but adverse reaction to more “take-aways”. There was also a plea for making shops more “wheelchair friendly”.

Tourism: This was seen as a positive benefit to the local economy with Chedham’s Yard and the Airfield cited as unique features that should be more widely promoted. That said, there was a significant minority who felt that tourism should be discouraged due to aggravation of the already poor traffic and parking constraints. Other ideas for promoting tourism included the creation of circular walks from a designated car parking area (by the recreation ground?) which took in some of the main features of Wellesbourne including Chedham’s Yard and the “prettier” parts of the conservation area plus many of our listed properties. Suggestions were also made that we should create more events that might encourage visitors.