



A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Kingston

Kingston must maintain its character as a living village in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

That's **your** vision for Kingston, taken from the huge number of written comments presented at our Drop-In day on Saturday 26th November.

Over 90 people attended the Drop-In, or sent in written responses to the questions we asked about living in Kingston, the pressures on the village and what changes there might need to be in the future. There were literally hundreds of post-it responses and a lot of these referred to more than one issue. It was quite a job sorting them all out, but a number of themes are emerging, for example:

Housing: very considerable concerns about the impact of a large development on the village, the lack of affordable housing for young people especially young families, numbers of second homes/holiday lets, will new build just provide more of these?

Transport and movement: increasing problems over parking, concerns about speeding and large vehicles travelling through the village. Also poor public transport.

Environment: a big response about the beauty of the countryside we live in. Sewage and drainage issues and of course dog poo! Cats had a very brief mention.

Enterprise/employment: lack of local job opportunities.

Heritage: our two Conservation areas, many listed buildings etc

Community well being: people value our caring and close friendly community. The amenities we enjoy such as the Recreation Ground, the range of activities / clubs etc many based on the Reading Room, a beautiful Church, the pub! Just 'the pub' mentioned several times with a cry of woe that it was shut that weekend.

Sadly those who took part in the Drop-In were mainly in the older age groups. We appreciate the pressures of work and children on young families, but this is your village too, please take the opportunity to give your views on its future. There will be a fuller report available shortly and you will be able to comment via the website, see below.

The Housing Needs analysis was not complete before the early deadline for this Newsletter. Currently the Group is also investigating the relevance of a Village Housing Initiative, which would enable a small development of social housing and 'help to buy', (part mortgage, part rental) housing with a couple of open market homes to support costs. This might be appropriate for Kingston, but there is a great deal of work to be done yet.

Very many thanks to Alan Coleman Smith, who is setting up our new website. This will be launched in the New Year and all our activities, reports on progress and the evidence we are starting to collect will all be available through the site.

We need more support like this please. Can you help? Perhaps you have a particular interest in one of the emerging themes above, or just feel you could contribute to the work?

Please contact Judy Alloway, allowayjudy1@gmail.com 810692, or Flo Watts, flowatts@btinternet.com 810019, if you have any queries/comments about the Plan and/or can to help.

JA 6/12/16