

Draft Notes from ANP2 Steering Group Meeting held on 17 April 2018

Gathering feedback from the three Task Groups' discussion of Social Infrastructure.

Present:

James Stewart - Chair

Sue Simpson - Town Clerk

Lucy Ashworth - Deputy Mayor

Kay Wagland - Town Councillor & Agenda 21 (Task Group leader Torton Hill)

Geoff Thorpe - Architect/Masterplanner

Darrell Gale - Director of public health

Michael Standring- resident

James Sellar - Farmer

Jeremy Johnstone - resident & Task Group leader (Riverside)

Victoria Holland - architect, resident & Task Group Leader (Old Town)

David Wood - Arundel Lido

Conclusion/Summary

Do we need to create a new vision/identity for the Town, based on bold policies?

Arundel is already a success, and well served in terms of social infrastructure with some noted exceptions. The Task Groups were positive about the two developing community assets at the Lido and Victoria Institute (subject to below - see Community Assets).

It would be easy to play safe and accept the status quo, but the SG feel we can do more.

Community Assets

Overall the three groups felt that there was good provision of community assets, as set out in Policy 10 of ANP1. They felt that the facilities were generally under staffed (sports & youth leaders as well as volunteers across all groups), lacked co-ordination and operated at under capacity. Residents felt that they did not know what was going on and what groups there were.

The Library is well used, for more than just book lending. It was noted that it has a large meeting space for up to 140 people, the largest in Arundel, but not often used.

The River is an underused asset, it runs through the middle of Town and could be made more of.

Canada gardens, the old nursery adjacent to the A27, is in the process of being cleared by ADC to create a new green space. This needs to be added to Community Assets.

There is not much opportunity to expand Green Spaces but one group mentioned “Daisy” Field on the Causeway opposite the old Police Station.

Generally the quality of green spaces was felt to be lacking, particularly at the skate park on Canada Road. (Note: ATC plan to install outdoor gym equipment here in due course)

Q. Is the new development at the Victoria institute really needed? The building is in a terrible state, needs a huge amount spending on it and the community function could be provided elsewhere (at Lido, Museum or Old School)?

Q. Can we retain the old School building in Surrey St, currently the library & Youth Club, after the end of the lease? To enhance and expand activities there. This large building is in the centre of Town and has plenty of parking.

Q. How can we enhance and improve the river Arun for residents and visitors? Additional paths, easier access for boating, etc? Link to Littlehampton?

Q. What are WSCC plans for the Library?

Q. Could the Library facility be reinvented within ANP2 recognising all the other facilities/functions it provides?

Q. Can more be achieved at the football club? With the installation of Astro turf?

Action for ATC: Provide more information on groups and activities on ATC website, Town noticeboards & social media.

Action for OH: Provide ANP2 Steering Group with a map showing all community assets as per ANP1 Policy 10.

Action for OH: Add Canada Gardens to Community Assets.

Elderly

The Town is not easily accessible for older residents, both in terms of getting around town and also within public spaces.

The three groups were unanimous in stating that they did not see the need for more retirement flats. There is a surplus on the market and the groups felt that Arundel needs a balanced community and not growing by an influx of elderly. People felt that the community benefits from elderly mixing with the young.

The Arundel surgery, which is at capacity (?), can possibly expand in to a first floor space, it was stated that the original design allowed for this. However, expansion is limited not by space but by a lack of doctors.

Q. Is the surgery at capacity in terms of patients?

Q. Can the surgery expand upstairs?

Q. What can be done within ANP2 to support older residents in their own homes?

Younger residents

The Youth Club is a good facility, well used but could open more frequently? The task groups felt that the activities on offer at the Youth Club were great (cooking, computer etc) but they were not publicised enough.

The Cubs are at capacity and they make good use of their Scout Hall.

Pre-school provision is lacking and places limited in the two Primary schools due to children coming in from the surrounding villages for these.

It was noted that the condition of Mill House Farm was getting worse, and this may affect any planning application on the site.

A Secondary school is needed for Arundel children to progress into. At the moment after Primary school the children go on to a number of different schools across the district/county and so relationships are lost.

These lost relationships and local links can contribute to youth problems later on as they become teenagers.

It was noted that the Lido can provide facilities for young people, but also that those under 16 needed to be with an adult or under other supervision.

There is no longer a youth Arundel football team.

Q. Where can new pre-school facilities be built? Old School building, Mill House Farm, Ford Road?

Q. How can the activities at the Youth Club be better promoted?

Q. Can the Youth club open more frequently?

Q. How can we secure the Old School Building for the Town after the lease comes to an end?

Q. Can the Lido, with the new building and extended opening, offer supervised activities for younger residents?

Allotments

It was noted that the allotments have a 5 year waiting list, although others thought this was not the case.

There was some discussion of the possibility of creating new allotments at Canada Gardens, but concluding that the nearby residents would not want this.

It was suggested that the green space in front of the Baptist Church could be used for allotments. This land belongs to Highways England, ATC would like to take over this area to maintain it and create a path along the walking desire line.

Q. What is the current waiting lists for the three allotments at London Road, Priory Road and Fitzalan Road.

Q. Is there a possibility of subdividing plots to allow more people to have an allotment?