

Attendees: Cllr David Gaye
Cllr Christine Martin
Cllr Niamh Mahon
Cllr Olivia Lyons
Kate Waterworth – Power for All
Laura Dunning – Power for All
Town Clerk

Background

Town Clerk gave a precis of where we had got to already with the draft questionnaire.

COMMUNITY

Q1 – What is the area of Rugeley you live in – list the areas – Brereton and Ravenhill etc – can you put in Other in case neighbours to Rugeley respond. We have other residents using the town and affecting the town – we are the commercial centre and therefore how Rugeley is perceived is important.

Q2 – in what sense has it deteriorated? Give some ideas?

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITIES

Q1 – this is not specific – can we word it better?

Q2 – gives different types of facilities / service – can P4A add? Heritage and History are very important amenities to the community. Cultural improvements were the most important to those questioned by P4A. Rugeley has a great history and wanted to see that enhanced / developed. Historic Site / Buildings – maintenance of those and the Heritage Trail connecting the towns. Museums? / Heritage Site? Add into this Youth Provision – lacking in the area. Training and Education facilities – does this come in community facilities? Tertiary education? Youth facilities and facilities for elderly people. This is a fact-finding survey for the Neighbourhood Plan. Communities are saying that they want to get involved in the Neighbourhood Plan – can they signpost us to other people?

Create the policies on various different things. Although the NP does focus a lot on housing – if you consult on a wider scope, you can get policies on other matters.

District Wide Local Plan covers all services and the Neighbourhood Plan should reflect the Local Plan.

HOUSING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN RUGELEY

We have a mix of closed and open questions with opportunities to reply in own words.

Q1 – This asks respondents to grade the importance of the housing on a scale of 1 – 10. We have had discussions on retirement villages recently.

Q2 – do people intend to move? Have we got a static population or is it fluid – people moving for employment etc?

Q3 – is your accommodation fit for your purpose?

Q4 – what other considerations should be considered. P4A think that this may be too much a moan about the Power Station site, especially as this is outside the NP area. P4A

questionnaire comments received were along the lines of – where's the GP surgeries for these people? Plans to get GP surgeries to cope. Need to create an evidence base and this is what the question gives us – the concerns for future.

LOCAL HERITAGE, PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND CHARACTER OF RUGELEY

Popular question for the local community. Unsure about Q5 – how satisfied are you? What are you dissatisfied with – amount of benches / state of play park etc. Feel that we should accommodate the various environment groups that are in the town – not just physical environment but could also include maintaining habitats, recycles, plastic free, Zero Carbon Rugeley. Can we put an option e.g., area to plant trees / land bank?

Green space that is not structured – flowing through the built environment

Q5 – what can we use this answer for? Can we get more information in this?

Q6 – Hednesford NP identified every piece of green space in the area. Looked at the potential of these. Mentioned them all so that these spaces could be saved and protected / developed. With the NP – as you can develop policies, re identifying different sites? Possibly get rid of Q6 and get more detail in Q7 instead – identify particular parks / open spaces – should we identify all the sites? Don't provide a list of everywhere but maybe give then the opportunity to name an area.

Q8 – what is the logic to this question? We should be focussing more on the uses e.g. Slitting Mill – surrounded by open space. ZCR doing a GOS mapping exercises – tracking where the residents move / how they use space and then we can overlay maps. Pick up on this work.

Link the river to the canal – the heritage trail as well. Possibly record Q8 to considering the Waterways within Rugeley – how do we improve this amenity for leisure / transport.

TRANSPORT

Real lack of cycle lanes in Rugeley – how safe do pedestrian and cyclists feel? By asking people to prioritise – apparently it gets respondents to think more about their responses.

Q6 – parking in Rugeley Town centre rather than parking anywhere in the town e.g. at peoples homes. Links are possibly there but not joined up – bus and train services this applies to. Re parking in town centre – is there a possibility for people to explain their thoughts? Agree that we should expand the parking question to include residents as well as the town centre. This may reflect in the lack of parking on the Power Station Site. Does the public transport get you to where you want to go at the time you want to get there?

P4A – had feed back that Rugeley is in the centre of Staffordshire so should have great links but in practise does not have good network. Keep Q6 but allow for an expanded response. Add another question to be around parking in residential areas as the outcome to both will affect the Neighbourhood Plan in a different way.

Don't mention cycle lanes – shall we add the lack of lane is in Q2? Active travel plans – importance of that from Staffordshire County Council – link to Sustrans as well. The cycle lanes that we have were put there in the 1990's – they are the bare minimum – the cycle lane disappears part way. There is a cycle lane along the bypass is rarely used. But the places where we do need them e.g. Hednesford Road they are lacking. We need the evidence for this though.

ECONOMY

Q1 and Q2 – looks for responses to land allocation in the Rugeley area. Is there evidence that people want this variety of space. May want to share the responses to Engie?? They are looking for starter hubs. Possible use of the Market Hall for starter businesses / desk space? Creative industries require the space but needs to be near to the footfall / shop window. Needs to be clarity – are we asking them to talk about what they perceive to be in existence in Rugeley or are we asking them to comment on the additional land allocation?

Q3 – P4A did a question around what you would like to see in the area – responses were those that we have listed in Q3. Does the question need to be rephrased in light of the pandemic?

One question is about the town centre itself – it needs to be a destination centre. It is a natural change and COVID has probably forced the change. Residential above the businesses – getting people to develop a leisure atmosphere. The events question should be a separate question – but it does create the atmosphere in the town.

Look at Uttoxeter as they way in which they are regenerating the town – greening the centre of town, housing in the centre of town.

In theory there is a person at CCDC assigned to Rugeley – but they have zero hours to deal with Rugeley. Need to get them in to have a look round the town.

BASIC HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Confusion as it reflects who answers the form rather than the make up of society. Maybe we should ask how the household is made up? Does it matter what gender they are / ethnicity? Disabled question is more about how we can make the area disabled friendly? - are you having this related to the other answers that have been received?

Need to look at who would analyse the questionnaire.

Question of how to deliver the questionnaire - £300 to make sure that every house in Rugeley would get a questionnaire. C Martin has contact details. Lots of drop off points for return of the questionnaires. WOW directory will mean that we can get the questionnaire to mailing lists of various groups.

Date of Next meeting

7.00pm on Tuesday 30th March 2021.