



Part 1: Consultation Report

for the delivery of

Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan

on behalf of:

Uttoxeter Town Council

April 2015



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Prepared By: JES/TH
Checked By: BP

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The East Staffordshire town of Uttoxeter is currently in the process of writing a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood planning, as enacted through the Localism Act 2011, responds to the 2011 reforms to the planning system, which encouraged local communities to have more control over the planning process in their local area.
- 1.2. The production of the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan began in September 2014. Since then BPUD have been working closely with local residents, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Town Council in preparation for its adoption as part of the local development plan and its role in the determination of planning applications.
- 1.3. The first stage of the consultation strategy has been to engage local residents and key groups in the neighbourhood plan process by collecting their thoughts, feelings and suggestions on what is good about the town and elements that could be improved. A broad spectrum consultation process has taken place to ensure the views of all parts of the community have been considered. A series of targeted meetings, surveys and community events have been held. Each of these events has been carefully designed for a different purpose in order to contribute to different stages of the plan making process.

2. Timetable of Sessions

- 2.1. Uttoxeter is a medium sized former market town situated to the north west of Burton on Trent. Due to the size of the town the strategy for consultation was designed in order to connect with all aspects of the community and to engage with those which may typically be unrepresented in public consultation processes. This has therefore included undertaking meeting with key local groups, holding sessions targeted at local businesses and holding community events at the Town Hall. The Steering Group are also seeking to engage with the local secondary school, Thomas Alleynes.
- 2.2. The table below provides an overview of all of these meetings and sessions:

Date	Event/Meeting
2013	Residents Questionnaire
2013	Business Questionnaire
13/12/14, 17/12/14	Issues and Options Exhibition
25/02/2015	Meeting Uttoxeter Leisure Centre
	Meeting Allotment Association
	Meeting U3A
	Meeting Art & Soul
	Meeting Heath Big Local
	Meeting ESBC Planning Policy Team
26/02/2015	Meeting Youth Group and others
	Meeting Neighbourhood Watch
	Meeting Friends of Bramshall Park/Picknall Valley Preservation Society
	Meeting Churches Together
	Meeting Old Peoples Welfare Committee
	Meeting ESBC - Economic Development Team
	Meeting Graham – Town Team
	Meeting County Council

3. Meetings with Key Groups

- 3.1. BPUD met with a range of local groups, including representatives from places of worship, community centres, schools and local charities. These meetings sought to raise awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan project and inform community groups of its purpose and the opportunities it offers, to discuss key issues and opportunities representatives of key community groups feel the Neighbourhood Plan should address and to start to formulate a comprehensive list of emerging themes.
- 3.2. Not all the groups that were initially contacted to arrange meetings wanted to contribute to the project. Nevertheless, they were informed of the opportunities presented by the production of a neighbourhood plan and were made aware of the different ways in which they could get involved in the future and with consent were put on the mailing list.
- 3.3. There follows a summary of the groups consulted and the key issues and observations raised:

Uttoxeter Leisure Centre, 10am, 25/02/15, Simon Morgan

Key issues

- No further plans for expansion of Leisure Centre – recent work sought to address capacity for the next 20 years.
- Indoor sports facilities provision good in the town. Outdoor provision not considered to be as good.
- Partnership work with STAR Foundation, neighbouring primary school.
- Neighbouring primary school has some issues with parking which affects the leisure centre – shared access.

Victoria Allotment Association, 11am, 25/02/15, Brian and Ann Barton, Andrew Marr, Margaret Nicholls

Key issues

- All allotments are now owned and managed by the Town Council
- Very popular pastime and a key community resource
- Waiting list for plots – some efforts have been made to increase capacity in recent years (subdivision of plots)
- Well placed but limited vehicular access
- Want to see provision of allotments within new development sites – would need parking, water supply, good access and security

- Would like to see the Neighbourhood Plan offer the town's allotments some degree of protection – offers value in terms of recreation, nature conservation and community hub
- Other issues:
- JCB site to come forward as is currently a blot on the townscape – to include opening up of the river front
- Provision of allotments and ensuring proper maintenance and management of any new community areas
- Town centre parking charges put people off from visiting
- Town is a hub for hinterland
- Economy is being affected by poor response to poor weather – ineffectual gritting of roads
- Loss of employment sites in town centre has contributed to its demise

U3A, 12pm, 25/02/15, Phil Greenwood, Ken Ashton

Key issues

- Serves Uttoxeter and District – 425 members
- Multitude of locations to hold activities
- Suggest creation of parallel group if enough interest – to feed into Neighbourhood Plan project. To draw out key issues and options and provide support of project.

Art & Soul, 2pm, 25/02/15, Vicki , Steve Simmonds

Key issues

- Need better building to suite needs
- Central community hub to organise and coordinate current community activities by different groups
- Town centre has lots of charity shops and estate agents
- Lack of meaningful things for young people to do
- Beautiful old buildings are not accessible to people with disabilities, elderly people or parents with prams
- Low quality paving causes trips and falls
- Pedestrianised area of high street is actually open to traffic because the bollard across the road isn't managed properly – makes it unsafe for pedestrians who assume there will be no cars
- Public realm design (and public architecture) doesn't consider people with different abilities and impairments – e.g. paved areas of high street have a pattern that people with epilepsy struggle with. The leisure centre has big windows, which is off-putting to lots of people who don't want to be seen when exercising (low confidence).

- Lack of disabled parking at the library.
- Car parking: current charging setup discourages people from long visits as they are compelled to leave when ticket runs out – an ANPR system would be better in this respect.
- Feeling that community is divided into existing residents and incomers living in new homes, who don't use local services. There needs to be an offer to draw new residents to use the town centre.

The Heath Big Local, 3pm, 25/02/15, Zdzislaw Krupski

Key issues

- Education is an issue as residents have long aspired to work in well-established local manufacturing businesses
- Need for niche shops to bring people in
- Need to give newcomers a reason to come into the town centre – should make better use of local heritage, buildings, encourage antique shops.
- Economic development should encourage people to move to Uttoxeter – many new local jobs are filled by people who commute in from other places.
- Business startups with a focus on young people should be encouraged.
- The European market should be grown.

Youth Group and others, 10am, 26/02/15, Mary and Lyn (school governors, Heath Big Local)

Key issues

- New development needs to be of smaller houses to remain affordable for local residents
- Majority of young people go to Thomas Allenys school – therefore workshop for youth at school recommended
- New youth project starting through Art & Soul
- Burton Albion work in the area – Dean
- Want to avoid becoming a commuter town
- Independent shops should be supported
- Community centres in town are old and in need of renovation
- A community hub in town centre would be too hard for young people to get to on their own
- Voluntary groups close over the summer so childcare is an issue for some families

- Bus services not frequent enough and hard to find out about timings
- Cricket ground set to move north of A50 – the A50 divides the town in two and makes accessing new facilities in the north very difficult
- Would like to see sustainable building design – new builds offer opportunity to utilise carbon neutral design – would make a difference for families energy bills
- Require higher standard of sustainable design
- New homes to be provided with 2 parking spaces – not through garaging as garages are invariably not used for parking.
- Encourage flats in suitable locations – but require them to provide more expansive living spaces – this is linked to above parking issue as people use garages as homes do not have sufficient storage.
- Traffic calming needed – speed bumps and ‘wiggly’ road designs are not working
- Encourage residential units above retail – protect groundfloor from being converted into residential
- Avoid too many restrictions on shopfront design – want to encourage people and avoid too many restrictions
- Empty houses – particularly in the Heath area
- Need better signage – i.e. showing route from Tesco into town centre
- Poor permeability discourages people from reaching town centre shops

Neighbourhood Watch/Uttoxeter Knights/Friends of Bramshall Park/Picknall Valley Preservation Society/50+,
11:15am, 26/02/15, Rupert Hill, Janet Dean, Peter Coffin

Key issues

- Celebrating what Uttoxeter has and using that to encourage higher footfall to encourage businesses and employment
- JCB site – needs to be completed as a priority – should include leisure area and shops in addition to housing and riverside walk
- Full pedestrianisation of the High Street – safety of shoppers due to lack of enforcement currently (suggest registration number recognition) – concern re impact of this on traffic outside schools
- Support a full market day (Friday suggested) to attract people to the town and encourage shoppers into Uttoxeter
- Improve link between racecourse and town centre
- Need for hotels in the town
- Concern re ability of existing highways network to accommodate traffic generated by new development

- Provide through route between Bramshall and A50
- Improvement of The Maltings – provide attractive shopping area – such as arcade in Burton
- Finance package to encourage retailers to take empty units in Town centre
- Free car parking periods in addition to pay on exit parking (rather than inflexibility of pay and display)
- Welcoming signs on all entry points into town – with facilities to incorporate signs advertising upcoming events
- Improved and updated tourist information website and service
- Better signage - update maps in car parks and Market Place
- Maintain and protect historic market town image and the buildings which contribute towards this image.
- Move with the times whilst preserving and promoting our history
- Picknall Valley – opportunity to provide green link from town centre, through JCB site, through Picknall valley into the countryside
- Protect Picknall valley through NP
- Poor provision of sports fields teams often have to use out of town facilities – accessibility for young people an issue with new pavilion development.

Churches Together, 11:45am, 26/02/15, Victor, Nora, Veronica, Daphne, Peter, Steven

Key issues

- Not in support of new dwellings being built on greenfield sites – need for brownfield derelict sites to be addressed
- Not enough shops and services to support new residents moving into Uttoxeter
- Highwood area – has no community facility and no parks
- Would like to see a new community facility as part of any new development site – a multi-faith facility where groups can hold services and run groups and activities
- Some issues with access to healthcare – particularly at weekends
- There is a need for starter homes
- Public transport needs improving
- Lack of polling stations at election times shows that some areas are in need of community space
- The High Street is lifeless and suffers from empty shops, temporary shops, too many charity shops

- People shop at Asda but do not then 'filter down into the town centre
- Diversity of shops available is poor – i.e. no clothes shops for men
- Becoming a commuter town where residents are not necessarily contributing to the community
- Loss of farming community has hit the town hard – loss of cattle market
- New housing development should incorporate green spaces, play areas, footpath links, houses at bottom end of the market, community facility to be built before houses are occupied
- Parking – tesco offer free parking therefore takes shoppers away from town centre
- Uttoxeter is very walkable however, High Street needs to be properly pedestrianized, relief road divides the town in two and is very difficult for pedestrians to cross
- The Maltings – refurbishment needed – rents are too high currently
- Approaches to town should be improved – currently unattractive
- Protect kiosk in market place
- Happy to see some empty retail units turned into residential units – better that they are used – but would kill off the town centre even more
- Need to protect parks, footpaths, making the history and heritage of the town more visible

Old people's welfare committee, 2pm, 26/02/15, Betty Harrison and Vivian Adshead

Key issues

- Serve those isolated and unable to get out of the house – run a summer party and give out vouchers at Christmas
- Around 40 members
- Mobility is a big issue for members – mobility bus available but is considered expensive and have to pre-book
- Need for cheaper transport
- Existing services stop at 2pm – therefore heavy reliance on taxis, friends and family
- Used to be a thriving town – centred around the market
- Need for bungalows for old people - need to remain for the elderly and not change hands over time
- The Maltings – needs to renovated but kept as shops
- Too many takeaways

- Healthcare – difficult to park and at top of hill making it difficult for those less able to walk
- As town grows improved healthcare services will be needed
- Should provide housing for the elderly near the bus routes
- Many local activities for those who may be isolated – i.e. coffee mornings at local churches

Other suggested groups to consult

Town team – Graeme Jones

Outdoors facilities manager – Tim Phillips

Oldfields – sports and social club

Mother and toddler groups

50+ forum

41 club

Mr Barrett – The Maltings owner

Red Gables – Joel W

Hugh Montgomery

Highwood Hill – old people’s home

Notice boards for publicity

- Digital noticeboard in Leisure Centre
- Victoria Allotments email list
- U3A newsletter
- Rupert Hill

4. Local Business Consultation

4.1. Uttoxeter is home to a large number of businesses ranging from light industry, heavy industry and garages to pharmacies and traditional corner shops in addition to the high street retail centre. It has therefore been considered particularly important to engage this sector of the community given the significant contribution they make to the town.

Business Survey:

4.2. The initial stage of consultation of the businesses in the town consisted of a questionnaire distributed to the business community giving them the opportunity to raise any matters they considered that the neighbourhood policies should address. A summary of the results can be found below.

4.3. The Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan Interim Business Survey Report outlines the results from a survey conducted online by an outside provider. There were limited number of respondents to the survey which means the document provides little representation of the wider business community, however respondents answers were in a general conformity with each other. Additionally the analysis can be used alongside other evidence bases to back up policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.4. The main points taken from the survey include;

- Shops or other retail outlets and light industrial and manufacturing businesses are considered the most important to provide employment and boost the local economy.
- Transport, storage and distribution, and financial and professional services were considered the least important for employment and the local economy.
- There was a majority view (70%) that new space needs to be allocated for employment however 77% felt existing buildings would be adequate and 50% believe Greenfield sites would be adequate.
- A very mixed answer if 'employment sites should be protected from change of use' with no overriding response.
- Barriers to the growth of the economy include;
 - High rates
 - Lack of space
 - Unattractive town centre
 - Lack of attractions
 - Lack of infrastructure (expanding boundary of Uttoxeter)
 - Lack of parking

- 4.5. Overall the business community considered that the UNP should aim to break down barriers highlighted by respondents to improve employment and the local economy of Utttoxeter.

5. Community Consultation

5.1. Consultation of the Uttoxeter Community took on a range of different forms in order to engage with as representative a sample of the population as possible and to provide the neighbourhood plan team with useable inputs to shape the neighbourhood plan and its policies. The table below provides the details of each session or method of consultation undertaking:

Date	Activity
2013	Resident Questionnaire
13/12/14	
17/12/14	Issues and Options Exhibitions – Saturday and Wednesday Market
-	Community Workshop

Resident Questionnaire:

5.2. The Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan Residents Survey Report outlines the results from a survey conducted online and by paper which received 455 respondents. The report covers a broad spectrum including; what people like about Uttoxeter, Housing, Local Employment, Environment, Community Services and Sustainable Communities.

5.3. The main points taken from the survey include:

- Uttoxeter is losing its identity as a rural market town and is progressively becoming a dormitory commuter town. (Threat to community spirit)
- The support the protection of the retail and access to open space and countryside.
- The town centre needs revitalising with new attractions, retail and cheaper/free parking.
- Views on ESBC housing plan; 61% said there is already too many, 23% said it was about right and 16% felt more were needed.
- Affordable and family housing should be prioritised over flats, three story and luxury housing.
- Over 60% believe that housing types should be sympathetic to the areas characteristics.
- Overwhelming view that brownfield sites should be prioritised for development over Greenfield sites.
- Concerns that poor infrastructure is leading to traffic congestion and/or speeding.
- Retail, light industrial, and food and drink production were seen as the most important employment sectors.

- 78% regard existing building and brownfield sites more important for employment development, backed up further with 6% believe Greenfield development would be unsuitable.
 - Lower business rates in town centres and reduced business rates for new businesses was seen important to reduce the reliance on large companies.
 - 83% believe employment development needs to be in-keeping with the local character area.
 - Green corridors, trees, green spaces and historic buildings should all be protected and where possible enhanced.
 - Views for protection include; the skyline, Weaver hills, agricultural land, the Parks Restaurant, Picknalls Valley, Bramshall Park, mature trees, the Heritage Centre, War Memorial, and historic buildings and churches.
 - Pedestrian, higher quality cycle access, parking, public transport and access for disabled people are identified as improvement areas.
 - Facilities respondents felt could be improved included; attractions for young people, meeting places in town for the elderly, train and bus stations, library, swimming pool, leisure centre.
 - The most favourable renewable energy to be implemented was hydro power from streams.
- 5.4. Overall, residents felt that the UNP should take into considerations the points being brought forward from the survey and transfer community views and aspirations into policies which can be included in the Development Plan.

Issues and Options exhibitions on market days:

- 5.5. Two exhibition events were held at Uttoxeter Town Hall on Saturday 13th and Wednesday 17th December 2014. Two members of the consultation team were in attendance. The exhibition comprises four large-print boards to:
- explain neighbourhood planning
 - explain the process of developing the plan
 - summarise the public comments the Town Council had received in their initial consultation exercise
 - explain the vision and objectives of the neighbourhood plan
- 5.6. The exhibition on the 13th was held as part of the monthly craft and produce market. Members of the public were invited to review the exhibition boards, ask the consultants any

questions they may have about the neighbourhood plan process, and to give their feedback in writing to the information provided. Nine feedback forms were received over the two days.

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

A neighbourhood plan is a document written by the community that sets planning policies to guide development over a set time period. Neighbourhood Planning gives local people real powers to shape the future of their neighbourhoods. It's now Uttoxeter's turn to have your say.

STEPS TO PRODUCING A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- Step 1 Identification of key stakeholders and steering group
- Step 2 Identification of neighbourhood area
- Step 3 Development of steering group and leading group
- Step 4 Creating community and publicising the plan
- Step 5 Development of the evidence base
- Step 6 Identify key local development issues & objectives
- Step 7 Policy development and formation of draft plan
- Step 8 Consultation and community engagement on draft plan
- Step 9 Submission to Local Planning Authority
- Step 10 Six week formal consultation period
- Step 11 Independent examination and public referendum
- Step 12 Publication of neighbourhood plan

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Once we have collected your thoughts and ideas we will prepare a draft Neighbourhood Plan document. This will be a collection of policies designed to set the strategy to address your concerns for Uttoxeter over the next twenty years. The document will use maps and drawings to show the areas of special focus to show how Uttoxeter may look in the future.

Once we have prepared the draft Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan there will be another opportunity for you to give your opinion on whether you are happy with the strategy for the area. We will also ask key organisations such as East Staffordshire Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage amongst others to share their thoughts on the strategy to check it meets their key objectives.

THE UTTOXETER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Economy

What you told us!

- Provide incentives for businesses to come to Uttoxeter
- "A further high volume, export led employer would help to make job prospects more secure".
- Promote and protect retail, food and drink industry and light industry
- Reuse brown-field sites and existing buildings for employment
- Suggestions of a local traders' register, free business advice and incentives for green businesses and employment
- Uttoxeter has become a commuter town
- Protect existing employment uses from change of use
- Encourage start-ups and small businesses
- Residents value supermarkets, local shops, pubs, restaurants
- Too few opportunities for young people to work in Uttoxeter.

Town Centre

What you told us!

- Maintain local connections - linked to success of towns centre
- Rejuvenate town centre - A brighter more attractive centre needed
- More Community events
- Attractive local shops were deemed to be important with some people wanting to see more branded shops with others wanting independent ones.
- Redevelop the Maltings and empty shops in the town centre
- Need more sports pitches - football and rugby
- Lack of safe places to walk, jog + cycle
- Interpretation boards for countryside walks and urban woodland walk
- Bramshall Park is highly valued, more facilities for older children, climbing walls, bigger skate park, BMX trails, more tennis courts available, cafe or kiosk, bandstand.
- Loss of market town identity - loss of livestock market
- Improve town centre shops
- Tidy up town - too much litter and empty units
- Parking needs to be free/cheaper
- "Uttoxeter as a town is 'horseshoe in shape' future developments should focus on filling the 'U' rather than Greenfield 'Ribbon' developments".
- Protection of leisure centre - newly refurbished
- Social activities of leisure centre - i.e. coffee shop and meeting rooms.
- Parking needs to be free/cheaper
- Quarry site - as a great site for sports, park and attractions, kayak and canoe centre, wildlife areas, bird watching etc.

Exhibition boards 1 & 2

Transport

What you told us!

- Maintain and improve local connections - key to success of whole town
- Parking is an issue in the town centre
- On street parking is a nuisance
- Need resident parking scheme
- Need long stay parking
- Traffic speeds and pedestrian safety is of concern
- Access to countryside highly valued
- Footpaths - improved lighting and better maintenance
- Improved cycle facilities: QR road routes, Better cycle parking (esp. in centre)
- NOT enough disabled parking bays

THE UTTOXETER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Housing

What you told us!

- Need for affordable housing and smaller family homes
- Sheltered housing and bungalow wanted for older people
- Brownfield needs to be built on before greenfield
- Concerns about the impact of new houses on infrastructure
- The need to accommodate new housing
- Fear of losing Uttoxeter's rural identity

Environment

What you told us!

- Maintain existing character and setting of Uttoxeter - rural setting
- Protect existing green spaces and green infrastructure
- Energy conservation and eco-design in new development
- Protecting key heritage assets
- Need for streetscape improvements
- Issue with dog fouling and litter

Community Facilities

What you told us!

- Facilities for younger people e.g. youth cafe or drop in centre
- More allotments
- Lack of places to socialise in the town - no night time economy
- Bring back the cattle market!
- Improved or additional public toilets near Trinity Square
- Lack of activities for the over 40s
- Lack of facilities on the Birdland estate

THE UTTOXETER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

DRAFT VISION: Uttoxeter strives to be an attractive and friendly historic market town with a vibrant and bustling town centre, within a highly valued rural setting.

OBJECTIVE 1 - ECONOMY: To promote and protect economic activity appropriate to the character of Uttoxeter and encourage job opportunities, particularly for the young.

OBJECTIVE 2 - TOWN CENTRE: To rejuvenate the town centre, making it a more attractive place to visit, shop and hold community events.

OBJECTIVE 3 - LEISURE AND RECREATION: The community highly value their leisure and recreation facilities and seek improvements and new outdoor trails, play and exercise equipment.

OBJECTIVE 4 - TRANSPORT: To retain and improve key local connections and address parking provision within the town to better meet the needs of residents, visitors and workers.

OBJECTIVE 5 - HOUSING: To provide the right mix of new housing to meet Uttoxeter's particular needs, supported by appropriate infrastructure, while avoiding losing the character and identity of the town.

OBJECTIVE 6 - ENVIRONMENT: To improve the appearance and functionality of Uttoxeter's places, and protect its character.

OBJECTIVE 7 - COMMUNITY FACILITIES: To provide and protect community facilities and provide opportunities for doing things together and making better use of existing facilities.

Ways to get involved:
 Interested in joining the Steering Group? Want to find out more?
 Email: plan4uttoxeter@gmail.com Call: 01625 282924
 Look out for further details: Town Council website | Town Council notice boards | In the Local Press

Exhibition boards 3 & 4

Summary of consultation responses taken from feedback forms

5.7. Town centre and economy

- Uttoxeter needs more upper-market shops and ‘expert retailers’ to match the offer in neighbouring towns include Ashbourne. Uttoxeter should have a weekly market like Stone does. More should be made of local history and culture – horses and horse-racing, gypsies, Roman history.
- Economy needs “to cope with the increasing number of houses being built”.
- “Where will our children work?”
- Empty shops are a significant issue.

5.8. Leisure and recreation

- A place for 14-17 year olds to go is needed – “a teenage pub... all the aspects of a pub but no beer” – with pool and darts.
- Local provision of sports facilities is lower than in 1950s. Suggestion that provision could be improved between Bramshall Road and Picknall Brook. Bramshall Road Park should be retained as a park instead being developed, as proposed.
- More benches along walking routes are needed, including at Dovefield Business Park.

5.9. Transport

- Some junctions are poorly planned e.g. a pedestrian crossing by ASDA is placed dangerously close to a roundabout.
- Parking is a big issue.
- More off-road cycling routes including routes into town. Cycle parking facilities should be improved.

5.10. Environment

- “We are not looking after our heritage.”
- First impressions of the town “is terrific”.

6. Summary of key issues

6.1. The following table provides a summary of the key issues emerging from the consultation undertaken thus far:

<p>Key issues:</p>
<p><i>Recreation and Leisure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor sports provision not considered to be as good as indoor provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cricket ground set to move north of A50 – the A50 divides the town in two and makes accessing new facilities in the north very difficult - Poor provision of sports fields teams often have to use out of town facilities – accessibility for young people an issue with new pavilion development. • Lack of meaningful things for young people to do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A place for 14-17 year olds to go is needed – “a teenage pub... all the aspects of a pub but no beer” – with pool and darts. - Voluntary groups close over the summer so childcare is an issue for some families • There is a waiting list for allotment plots and it is a popular pastime in the town. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NP should seek provision of allotments within new development sites – would need parking, water supply, good access and security. - Would like to see the Neighbourhood Plan offer the town’s allotments some degree of protection as they offer value in terms of recreation, nature conservation and community hubs. • The Highwood area – has no community facility and no parks
<p>Transport and access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrianised area of high street is actually open to traffic because the bollard across the road isn’t managed properly – makes it unsafe for pedestrians who assume there will be no cars • Bus services not frequent enough and hard to find out about timings • Traffic calming needed – speed bumps and ‘wiggly’ road designs are not working • Concern re ability of existing highways network to accommodate traffic generated by new development • Provide through route between Bramshall and A50 • Public transport needs improving

- Need for cheaper transport
- Mobility is a big issue for the elderly – mobility bus available but is considered expensive and have to pre-book.
- Existing services stop at 2pm – therefore heavy reliance on taxis, friends and family
- Full pedestrianisation of the High Street
- Improve link between racecourse and town centre

Parking:

- New homes to be provided with 2 parking spaces – not through garaging as garages are invariably not used for parking
- Lack of disabled parking at the library
- Town centre parking charges put people off from visiting - Free car parking periods in addition to pay on exit parking (rather than inflexibility of pay and display)
 - More benches along walking routes are needed, including at Dovefield Business Park.
 - More off-road cycling routes including routes into town. Cycle parking facilities should be improved.
- The primary school has some issues with parking which affects the leisure centre – shared access

Development:

Housing:

- Not in support of new dwellings being built on greenfield sites – need for brownfield derelict sites to be addressed
- Would like to see a new community facility as part of any new development site – a multi-faith facility where groups can hold services and run groups and activities
- There is a need for starter homes - Affordable and family housing should be prioritised over flats, three story and luxury housing
- Need for bungalows for old people - need to remain for the elderly and not change hands over time
- As town grows improved healthcare services will be needed
- Should provide housing for the elderly near the bus routes

Brownfield sites:

- JCB site needs to come forward as is currently a blot on the townscape – to include opening up of the river front

Design:

- Would like to see sustainable building design – new builds offer opportunity to utilise carbon neutral design – would make a difference for families energy bills
- New housing development should incorporate green spaces, play areas, footpath links, houses at bottom end of the market, community facility to be built before houses are occupied
- Encourage flats in suitable locations – but require them to provide more expansive living spaces – this is linked to above parking issue as people use garages as homes do not have sufficient storage

Town centre:

Shopping and retail:

- Town centre has lots of charity shops and estate agents - Need for niche shops to bring people in
- The European market should be grown - Support a full market day (Friday suggested) to attract people to the town and encourage shoppers into Uttoxeter
- Improvement of The Maltings – provide attractive shopping area – such as arcade in Burton
- Happy to see some empty retail units turned into residential units – better that they are used – but would kill off the town centre even more
- Too many takeaways
- Uttoxeter is losing its identity as a rural market town and is progressively becoming a dormitory commuter town. (Threat to community spirit)
- Independent shops should be supported
- Encourage residential units above retail – protect groundfloor from being converted into residential
- Uttoxeter needs more upper-market shops and ‘expert retailers’ to match the offer in neighbouring towns include Ashbourne.
- Need for hotels in the town

Attracting people into the town centre:

- Welcoming signs on all entry points into town - Better signage - update maps in car parks and Market Place - Approaches to town should be improved – currently unattractive
- Need better signage – i.e. showing route from Tesco into town centre
- Poor permeability discourages people from reaching town centre shops

- Public realm design (and public architecture) doesn't consider people with different abilities and impairments
- Feeling that community is divided into existing residents and incomers living in new homes, who don't use local services. There needs to be an offer to draw new residents to use the town centre.
- Improve link between racecourse and town centre

Environment:

- Picknall Valley – opportunity to provide green link from town centre, through JCB site, through Picknall valley into the countryside
- Protect Picknall valley and parks through NP
- The NP should support the protection of access to open space and countryside
- Green corridors, trees, green spaces and historic buildings should all be protected and where possible enhanced.
- The resident's survey revealed the most favourable renewable energy to be implemented was hydro power from streams

Heritage and Conservation:

- Protect kiosk in market place
- Beautiful old buildings are not accessible to people with disabilities, elderly people or parents with prams
- Need to give newcomers a reason to come into the town centre – should make better use of local heritage, buildings, encourage antique shops.
- Maintain and protect historic market town image and the buildings which contribute towards this image
- Need to protect parks, footpaths, making the history and heritage of the town more visible
- Green corridors, trees, green spaces and historic buildings should all be protected and where possible enhanced.
- More should be made of local history and culture – horses and horse-racing, gypsies, Roman history.

Employment:

- Shops or other retail outlets and light industrial and manufacturing businesses are considered the most important to provide employment and boost the local economy.
- There was a majority view (70%) that new space needs to be allocated for employment however 77% felt existing buildings would be adequate and 50% believe Greenfield sites would be adequate.
- Barriers to the growth of the economy include;
 - High rates
 - Lack of space
 - Unattractive town centre
 - Lack of attractions
 - Lack of infrastructure (expanding boundary of Uttoxeter)
 - Lack of parking
- Loss of employment sites in town centre has contributed to its demise
- Business startups with a focus on young people should be encouraged

