

Community Engagement – consultation summary

Event (eg name of group / event) :		Balsall Common Business Club	
Nature of consultation (eg Community event; focus group; questionnaire) :		Regular monthly meeting	
Date : 19 August 2016		Venue : British Legion	
NDP lead : Andrew Burrow		Key contact (if applicable) : Jill Bowman jillwbowman@hotmail.com 01676 532078	
Participant details (eg approximate number; attach register if available) :		14 members ranging from small businesses to self employed. No retail	
Purpose of consultation (ie nature of data to be collected incl. housing, education, traffic, public transport, retail, amenities and utilities. Focus on BC and/or rural areas incl. Berkswell) : To gather thoughts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the benefits of running a business in our area • What could be improved to make it a better place to run your business today • As our community grows what needs to be planned to ensure that it is a good place to do business 			
Description of consultation (incl. photos; material presented / on display/ handouts): Round table discussion with results recorded on flip chart			
Issue	Current benefit to business	Needs improvement today	Will need improvement as community grows
Premises		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cheap and secure storage premises with ready access for stockholding. 2. Starter space for new businesses 3. Small Workshops 	Concern that current commercial buildings will be replaced by housing
Environment	A pleasant place to live and work in the greenbelt		
Proximity to customers	Close to Coventry and Birmingham/Solihull. Central in country and with good overall transport links to other parts of country		
Transport people	Good for airport, rail and road network	Bus service very poor for employees without cars. Road congestion at peak times causing unpredictable journey times (creates non productive time)	Bus service improvement for employees
Transport goods	Good road access for product receipt and dispatch		
Parking		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parking at rail station overloaded. If one travels by train to a meeting after peak time there is nowhere to park increasing 	Lots more parking in BC village centre.

		<p>travel times</p> <p>2. Parking in Balsall Common centre is overloaded. Discourages meetings in centre and can put off clients & complicates quick trips to post office/banks etc</p>	
Broadband/connectivity	Improved in much of Balsall Common but patchy	There is not complete good coverage. The Meriden exchange was updated but not all boxes updated (it is what the IT person said). This needs resolving now.	
Post Office and Banks	Post office used for banking - obtaining cash, depositing cheques as well as post. A valued service. Banks available	It is good currently. Worried about future of post office, remaining banks and opening times of banks	
Education		Heart of England needs to encourage an early and broad contact with employers on careers particularly IT and engineering. It used to be better.	
Housing	Attractive place to live	Lack of younger qualified people due to expensive housing.	We need more cheaper/smaller housing styles for 20 to 40 year olds to enable those early in their careers to live around here and hence provide employees for newer industries. Not simply more large/expensive houses
Security	Generally a safe area from a people point of view	Some areas outside of the centre suffer from repeated burglary/forced entry which can be an issue for stored goods or offices which are not manned at night. A specific example was given in this context but not recorded for privacy reasons.	
<p>Non business issues Raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic speeds on Station Road (eastern side was what was discussed) • Cars reversing out of parking on Station Road particularly where vision is obscured by high vehicles/those with blacked out windows 			

