

**Prepared by the Working Group established by  
Chichester City Council**

**TOWARDS A VISION FOR CHICHESTER  
AND  
A PLAN OF ACTION (UPDATE 2009)**

*based upon*

*the views of City Residents, Workers, Students and Visitors; Social and Economic Groups in the City; and the Working Group Members and the update by Town Plan Sub Committee.*

*The Original Plan Adopted by Chichester City Council on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2005  
And revised September 2009*



## Aerial photograph of central Chichester



Photograph reproduced by courtesy of the Chichester Observer

# TOWARDS A VISION FOR CHICHESTER

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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION LODGED WITH THE CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

## I THE WORKING GROUP

**Towards a Vision for Chichester is the product of the Town Plan Working Group set up by Chichester City Council in October 2004. As listed in Annexe 3, it consists of twelve lay members and three councillors. This was updated in 2009.**

### 1.1 The Brief

- (a) **To ascertain and to gather together the views of:**
  - ✍ **the people of Chichester and those who visit it**
  - ✍ **interested organisations (e.g. local government and public services, Cathedral and Colleges, companies and citizens' groups and Residents' Associations)**
  - ✍ **the Working Group members**
- (b) **To interpret the information gathered and to prepare and present a Vision for Chichester, with an Action Plan, to Chichester City Council**
- (c) **To help in the process of presenting this Vision to a wider audience - the citizens of Chichester, Chichester District Council, West Sussex County Council and others**

### 1.2 Methods and Procedures

The Working Group has discharged its mandate by drawing together the views of the people who live, work and study in Chichester or who visit it, on present and future development. A Town Plan subcommittee of City Councillors then reviewed the findings and updated the document in 2009.

- (a) **A Questionnaire** was specially designed and delivered to 1 in 5 randomly selected households in the City and to:
  - ✍ local colleges,
  - ✍ employers large and small,
  - ✍ the Tourist Office

A summary of the findings of the Questionnaire is set out in Annexe 1. Detailed information, including the full statistical results of the Questionnaire, all of the Figures and the text of the public presentation made by Dr Martin Innes in the Assembly Room in June 2005, is provided in the **Supporting Documentation** deposited with the City Council.

- (b) **Consultations** have taken place with a variety of social and economic groups *such as*:
  - ✍ Residents' Associations,
  - ✍ Youth groups,
  - ✍ the Cathedral
  - ✍ Colleges and hospitals,
  - ✍ Retail shops and commercial operators.

**These Consultations** have thrown up a number of interesting suggestions and ideas. A list of the discussions held with the various parties is attached at Annexe 2 (p44) and copies of all the records made can be found in the **Supporting Documentation** deposited with the City Council.

- (c) **The Working Group and sub-groups of the Working Group** met regularly to collect, collate, analyse and interpret the information obtained and, against this background, to formulate their own ideas on specific points.

### 1.3 The Presentation

Each Section of the Working Group's Report begins with a summary of the key messages that come out of the Questionnaire and follows this by presenting strategic aims, issues for action or ideas meriting further consideration. The sources of these are indicated as follows: **Q** for Questionnaire, **C** for Consultations and **WG** for ideas emanating from Working Group members. Each Section concludes by laying out the thinking behind these points, as brought to light in the deliberations of the Working Group and its drafting sub-groups.

The final Section of the Report (IX) on the **Vision and the Local Development Framework** includes the **six key ideas** which, in the light of the materials gathered together by the Working Group and of its deliberations on them, seem to members of the Group to be essential to any Town Plan with Vision.

Basic statistics on the City, with a map identifying its administrative boundaries, are provided in the Appendices (on pp 33, 34 and 35).

### 1.4 Proposals for Action

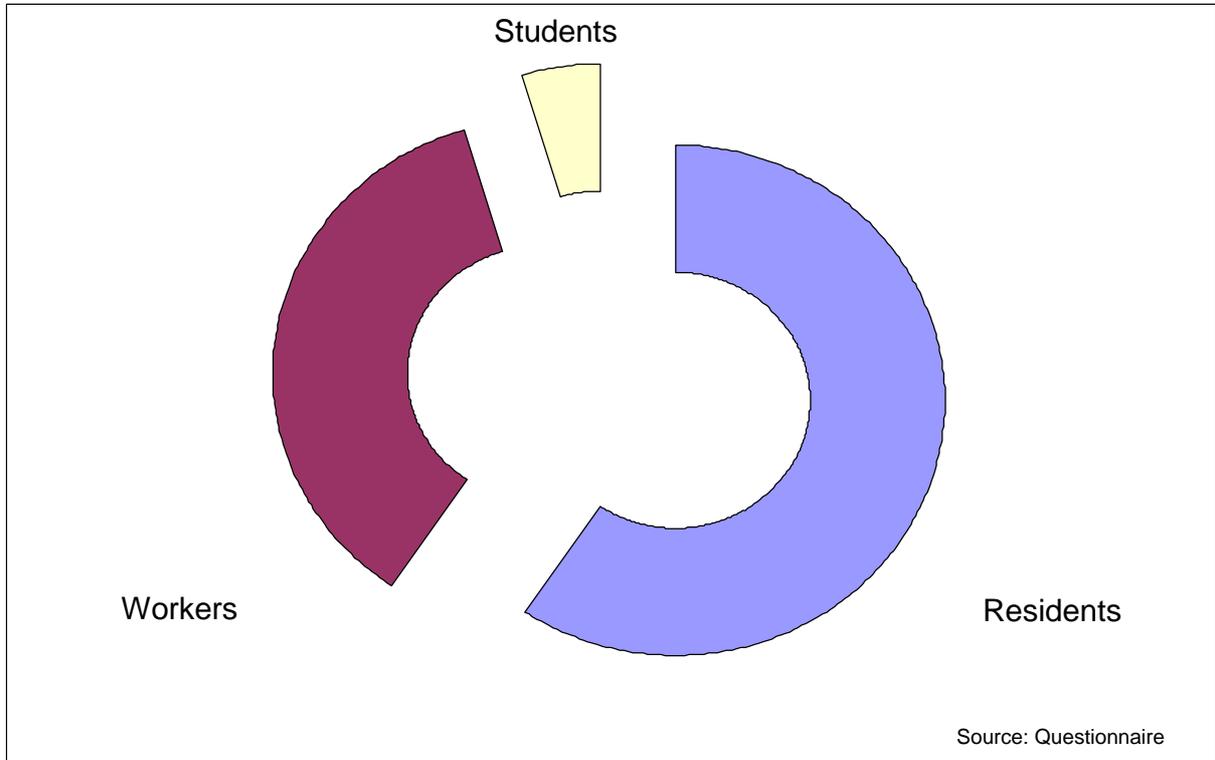
With reference to the Local Development Framework, Chichester City Council has been invited to prepare a Parish or Town Plan containing simple, prioritised proposals for action. This Report has been written to help formulate these. However, Chichester is a City, which faces more complex issues than most of the smaller Parish and Town Councils that are also submitting proposals. The Vision for Chichester therefore presents broad ideas rather than detailed proposals (e.g. for specific road improvements and similar) but makes it clear where specific action is required. A number of proposals for detailed changes of this kind have been laid before the Working Group and these have been noted as requiring further examination and/or made available in the **Supporting Documentation** deposited with the City Council.

### 1.5 Acknowledgements

The Working Group is indebted to the City Council which sponsored it, to the District Council for providing financial and practical help and advice and to everyone who took the trouble to contribute, whether by completing the **Questionnaire** or otherwise sharing their views with Group members. It wishes to express a particular word of thanks to Martlet Homes for their hospitality and for the unflagging administrative and secretarial help provided in the preparation of minutes and agenda.

**FIGURE 1**

**The Proportion of Respondents who live, work or study in the City**



Although these percentages underscore the number of students they nevertheless match actual average figures.

## II A VISION OF CHICHESTER - ITS SETTING AND ITS SPIRIT

The results of the Questionnaire clearly demonstrate that the Overall Objective is to keep Chichester compact and manageable and to preserve and develop its character and amenities, as a regional arts and leisure centre, as an identifiable and historic, a large, market town or small city. They show that there is strong opposition (over 60%) to the idea of developing the City into a large commercial centre with new shopping malls and business centres on the periphery.

Q

FIGURE 2

The firm views expressed by respondents on the alternative visions of Chichester presented to them

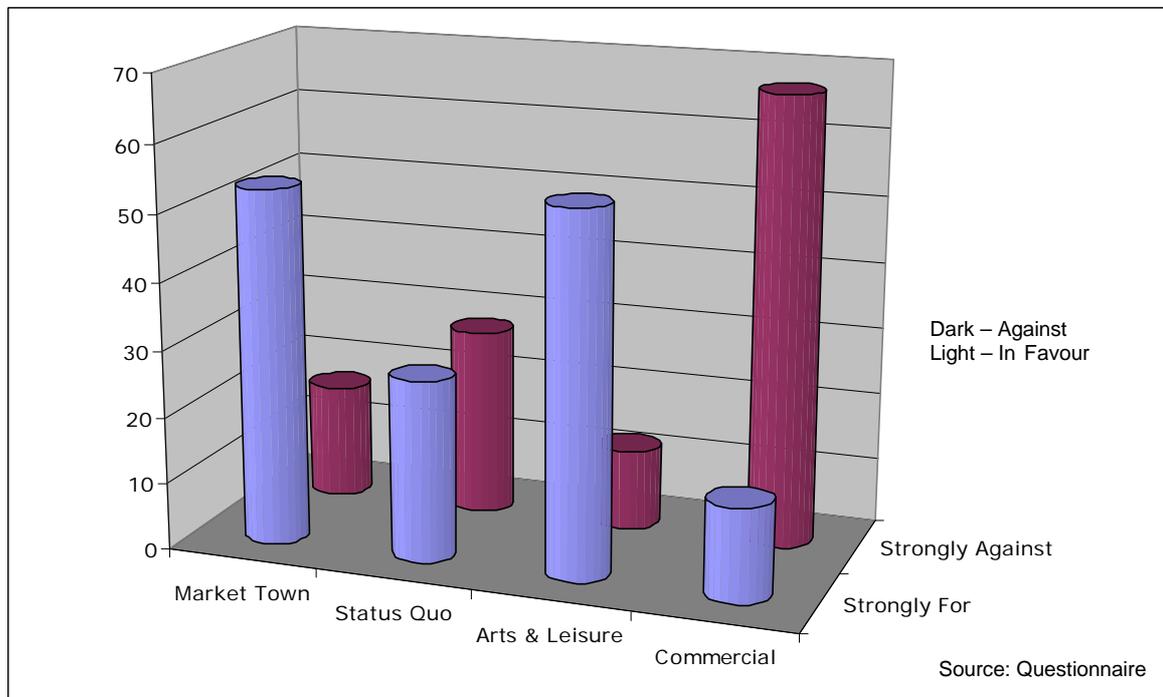


Figure 2 shows that although respondents have a clear vision of the kind of City that they want, there is relatively little support for the simple maintenance of the *status quo*. Indeed the Survey evidences a **mandate for change**, which, in conformity with the **Overall Objective**, should help it (insofar as Government policies allow!) to build organically on present structures and to broaden its appeal yet further.

## The Strategy

- ? **Keep Chichester relatively compact.** Q
- ? **Recognise the economic, environmental and cultural interdependence of the City and countryside around it.** Q,C, WG
- ? **Actively promote a culture of cooperation and inclusion.** Q,C

## The Issues for Action

- ? **The improved maintenance of public areas and thoroughfares.** Q
- ? **The enhancement of the green walkways and cycleways including the canal and its towpath which connect city and countryside.** WG
- ? **The protection and planting of open land, to prevent the City joining up with adjacent built-up areas.** Q
- ? **The recognition and promotion of the distinctive smaller communities lying within the City (their histories, identities and streetscapes).** Q, WG
- ? **Greater attention to historical and architectural explanation in the City's public areas and on its historic buildings.** C, WG
- ? **A special day in the year to be considered on which the City can be celebrated and promote Chichester in Bloom as part of the South and South East in Bloom Competition.** WG

## **Background Thinking**

- 2.1 Chichester, the County Town of West Sussex, is an ancient Cathedral and market town which has long attracted people to come to live, work and study in it. It has become a centre of community life and culture enjoyed by people from all parts of the United Kingdom and from many parts of the world. The belief that it must continue to develop as such is an important thread running through this Report.
- 2.2 In the 1960s it was recognised – along with Bath, Chester and York - as one of the country's foremost historic cities – a national treasure to be protected. Parts of its heritage were lost at this time but its citizens successfully fended off many of the more serious threats to it. Over the last decade or two the pace of change has quickened, with the building of the ring roads and major retail sites. Again, the City has responded well. In many of its housing developments sympathetic, height restrictions have been well enforced and the views of the Cathedral from both within and around the City have been well protected. The City now faces new challenges

from expansion under the SE Plan and the development of the new South Downs National Park and must find new answers.

- 2.3 These answers must take into account both the City and its landscape setting, which is beautiful but fragile – and threatened by sprawl. There is awareness that keeping the City relatively compact and protecting the natural environment around it are two sides of the same coin and that the interdependence of City and countryside is a cultural as well as an environmental reality. The historic and cultural assets of the City are part of a wider picture and it must be an overriding strategic aim to preserve this. In short, the inclusiveness of the City must be expressed in environmental and cultural as well as in social terms.
- 2.4 Chichester should *celebrate* this inclusiveness and interdependence with an annual Celebration of the living and growing City – as demonstrated by the Gala Day in 2006. Symbols and symbolic events can play an important role in promoting civic and social cohesion.

### III A VISION FOR THE CITY'S HERITAGE AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

*The Questionnaire shows very strong support across all age groups for the careful conservation of historic buildings in the centre and for the need to ensure that any new developments reflect the City's scale and character.*

#### Support of the Great Majority for the City's Historic Scale and Character

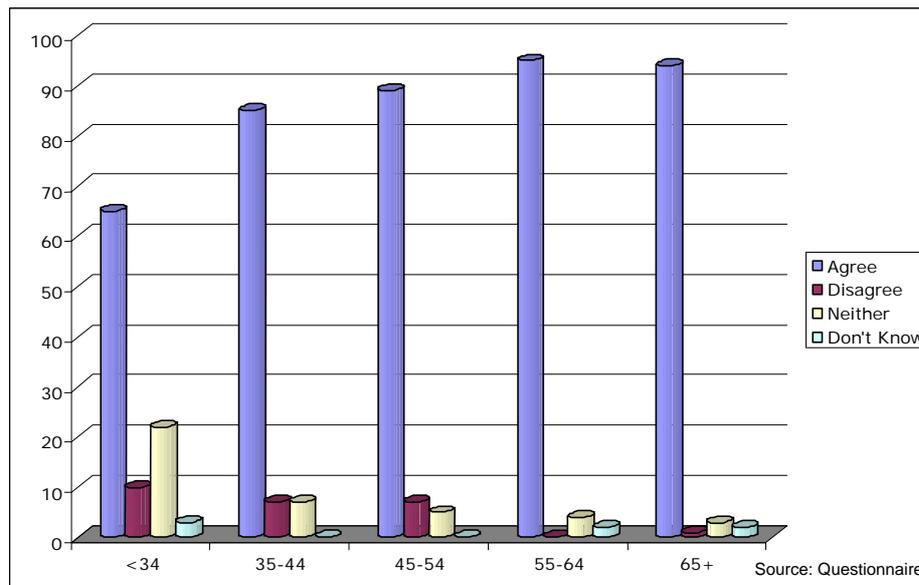


FIGURE 3

#### Strategy

Figure 3 above could hardly be clearer and the strategy must, therefore, is to continue the careful conservation of the City's historic buildings and to apply high, historically sensitive standards of design to all developments.

#### Issues for Action

***Encouragement of locally owned, daily needs, and niche shops.***

***Extension of pedestrianisation, in particular by widening pavements in the approaches to the precinct.***

***Enhancement of the Cathedral Green.***

***Reduction of the visual impact of the car and reduction of on-street parking.***

***Provision of more public information on the City's history and historic buildings through notice boards, plaques and leaflets.***

***Enforcement action against A Boards***

***Preparation of a Portfield Master Plan***

***Promotion of realistic public involvement in major planning applications.***

## **Background Thinking**

3.1 The preservation of the City's character and intimate scale is a clear priority for respondents to the questionnaire. Care for historic buildings and for the grain of the Medieval and Georgian City is especially important.

3.2 There is also a need for for a properly funded maintenance programme for the public realm. There is a tendency for street furniture and pavements to be neglected and become shabby, then be candidates for replacement. This is expensive in the long term and fails to conserve and build upon the fashion of the recent past which is also a part of our heritage. The test as to whether urban features are maintained or replaced should be one of quality, not fashion.

3.3 The preservation of character does not imply a policy of "no change". Indeed the Survey gives a mandate for change and development when really needed. The Working Group accordingly emphasises that respect for the architectural heritage must be accompanied by sensitive planning and a high standard of urban design. We are not opposed to innovation but stress, as above, that modern innovations should be of high design quality.

3.4 Care for character is also needed for areas like St Pancras, Whyke and Somerstown which are intimate in scale. Local communities merit conservation - in Parklands, for example, the school, church, green and shopping parade make a real village centre. Increased mobility and the decline of local shops poses a threat to such urban villages, a threat we feel should be countered as and when possible. We welcome the plans to create a new community, with its own community facilities, in Graylingwell.

-----  
3.5 In the centre there is an urgent need to preserve local shops, to encourage the niche shops which used to contribute so much to Chichester's flavour and economic success and to encourage more shops catering for daily needs. Few respondents want more large stores built on the peripheral sites, though there is a need for rationalisation and improvement of them. The City's major need now is for the smaller more diverse units to make a vibrant and comprehensive mix in the commercial centre.

3.6 We feel that there is a case for considering some development on car parks within the walls to create small shop units and pedestrian lanes and squares as in Brighton – an intimate small scale shopping development of the Baffins Court type could, for example, be extended over the Baffins Lane car park and still leave room for a service road for the East Street shops. Relatively low cost small scale secondary shop units would bring variety and a local flavour to a City centre which currently has an "anywhere" feel to the retail mix. Such units should be mixed use with flats above. Replacement parking should be considered below but a more economic solution would be to replace elsewhere – the Cattle Market car park is likely to have extra capacity if green travel plan of park and ride is introduced for CDC employees.

-----  
3.7 There is a strong case for pavement widening in the approaches to the existing pedestrian zones. In East Street, for example, we should like to widen the southern pavement opposite East Walls by removing the three on-street parking bays on the

south side. In North Street we should like to see pavements widened on both sides around Fernleigh by the removal of on-street parking and carriageway reduction. Most significantly we should like to make West Street and South Street one way for all traffic in a west to east / north to south direction. This would permit considerable pavement widening particularly at Southgate between Old Market Avenue and the one way system. This would greatly enhance pedestrian access from the bus and rail stations. In the long term full pedestrianization of the South and west street should be an aim.



3.8 There is a strong case for the enhancement of the Cathedral Green. We imagine a coherent space running from the buildings on the north side of West Street to the Cathedral walls. The southern part would remain grassed (but suitable for all-weather use) and most of the trees would remain also, possibly with one or two removed to open sight lines. The raised flower beds and pavement south of West Street would go entirely so the trees would sit in 'collars'. We envisage a more or less level open area with a kerbed single track bus lane running across the north for the time being. The most useful part would be between Chapel Street and the Cross, where the Lady Chapel walls are further south. This would be a natural 'town square' which could be used for a variety of purposes, meetings, markets, theatre and concerts all spring to mind. Strategically

positioned public seats could help define the space as well as being popular in their own right.

-----  
3.9 City centre car parks and the existing number of spaces must be preserved (though not necessarily in exactly the same ways as at present). Good parking facilities are essential for short term shoppers and visitors and vital to the City economy.

3.10 As inner city developments proceed, steps to minimise the aesthetically negative impact of the parked car in historic areas should be examined. North Pallant for example is small scale and very architecturally distinguished with rear access to most properties. We do not feel it, or similar streets, should be used for parking at all.

3.11 Car parks generally should be seen as a "developmental resource", i.e. as sites where multiple development may be possible, by going underground or by building over. Such practices are common in a number of continental cities of similar size. Generally inner city car parking should be retained for short term convenience

shopping but that any further car parking capacity should be by an extra deck on either initially the Cattle Market or North Gate Car Park. A one site Park and Ride other than for a green transport plan for a large employer is seen as a risky development given the geography and traffic flow around Chichester.

3.11 All new residential developments should respect the character of the location and reflect the accommodation needs of the local community. Height, bulk, density, materials, street design and green spaces must accord with Development Briefs where these have been prepared.

3.12 Most people want more spent on parks, footpaths, cycle ways and the canal. Responses to the questionnaire make it clear that people support improvements in the public realm. We specifically propose the floodlighting of significant buildings in the historic centre as at Chartres. This has economic benefits – it has considerably helped tourism.

3.14 There is a lack of public information on the City's history and historic places. Sign posts, notice boards, blue plaques and leaflets would all be welcomed - residents and visitors alike suggest this.

3.15 One thing in the public realm which nobody seems to like is A boards, the advertising boards which shops put out on the pavement in Chichester. We can see no reason why the District and the County (the responsible authorities) tolerate them. They are visually intrusive, inconvenient and potentially dangerous. There is some justification for the 20% which direct shoppers on the main street to side street shops but otherwise enforcement action should be taken immediately. The proposed "monolith" sign posting should reduce the perceived need for A boards from retailers.

-----  
3.16 Chichester today has two shopping hubs: the historic centre for fashion, restaurants and banking and Portfield for food and white goods. The out of town shopping area is of poor architectural/ town planning quality with poor pedestrian communication between the units. The shops are divided by two major roads. The area is a major gateway and gives a poor visual introduction to the City. The buildings are often of sectional industrial construction and we should like to see a master plan established so that the area can be improved over time. We should like to see transport integrated to provide a link between out-of-town shops and the historic centre.

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3.17 We favour public involvement in planning decisions. We note the example of the District Council which exhibited at a very early stage three concept plans for its new East Pallant House extension. We regret that private developers, despite Council policy, normally present their schemes for public reaction just before a planning application is submitted. Although the extensive consultation for the Grayling well development is to be welcomed. Consultation is most successful when it is at a very early stage and when realistic alternatives are offered for consideration.

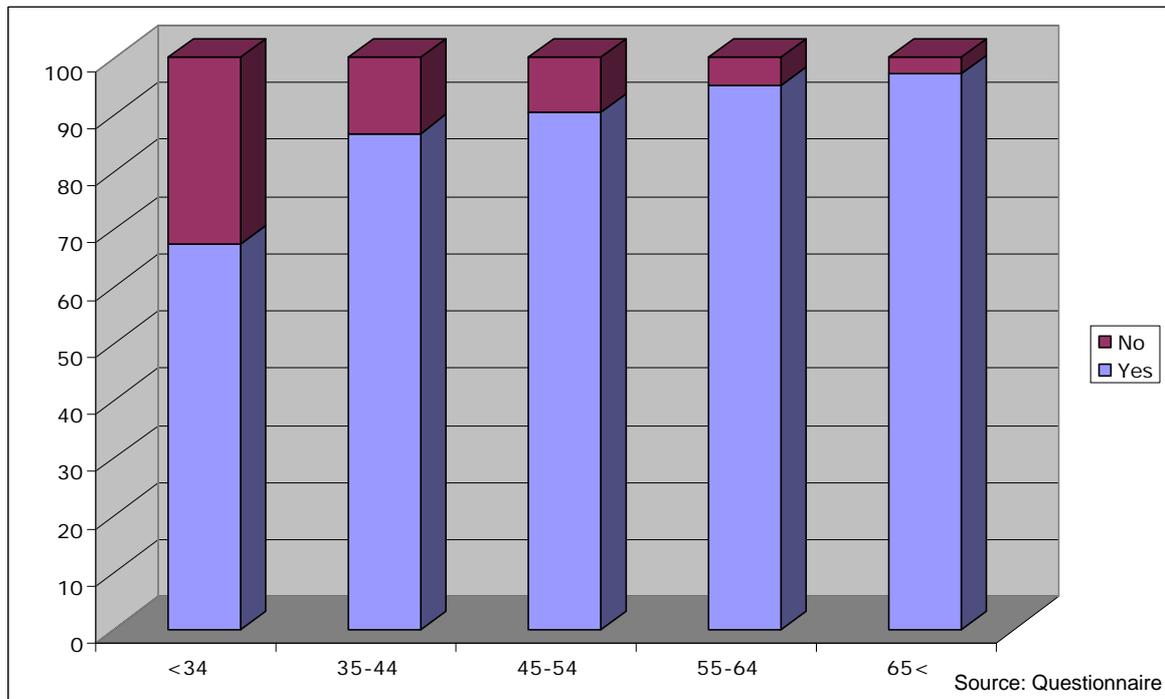
#### IV A VISION FOR HOUSING

Respondents to the Questionnaire record a high degree of satisfaction with their housing. But affordable housing is very hard to come by. Moreover at least 1,250 new homes on greenfield sites are foreseen (for the District) in the Structure Plan, quite apart from those expected to be built on brownfield sites. The City faces the near impossible challenge of fitting in a large number of new and affordable homes whilst protecting its scale and character as people wish. Any Vision for Housing must aim to balance these competing demands in the interest of the entire community.

Q

FIGURE 4

Satisfaction with Housing Needs Expressed in Age Groups



Even allowing for the fact that the returns received lean towards owner occupiers, Figure 5 shows high satisfaction rates of c. 80% for those aged 35 and over and c. 60% for those aged 34 and under. Following a period of rapidly rising prices, these figures are hardly surprising. They do not however address the problem of housing **need** and above all the provision of housing at affordable prices/rents.

Given that the planning function has been largely removed from the County and City Councils and that the District Council operates within very tight constraints, any strategy for housing must be robust and realistic.

### The Strategy for Housing

- ? **Meet the City's immediate housing needs on previously developed (brownfield) sites in the first instance, so that time for further assessment of the longer term situation can be gained.** Q
- ? **Press for appropriate and adequate help for younger and emerging households and for key workers and promote more affordable housing.** Q  
WG
- ? **Ensure that any substantial additions to the housing stock are matched by commensurate infrastructure improvements e.g. roads, schools, medical services.** WG

### The Issues for Action

- ? **Support measures to bring forward urban sites to meet housing needs but not at the expense of large housing .** WG
- ? **Explore innovative ways of providing sites for affordable housing to buy or to rent, such as Community Land Trusts, compulsory purchase, mixed tenure schemes and similar.** WG
- ? **Continuously review the Guidelines on housing design including energy efficiency, infill and the landscaping of the immediate environment, highlighting a holistic approach to these.** WG
- ? **Complement the Annual Reports of the planning and housing authorities, provide the people of Chichester with a readable annual statement on the political and economic, the demographic and social pressures affecting housing need, stating and re-stating the tensions between this and broader environmental aims.** Q  
WG
- ? **Press for the transparency in Section 106 Planning Agreements and consider ways to make them better serve the needs of the community.** WG

### **Background Thinking**

- 4.1 Chichester is a desirable place in which to live and (as in the District) there is a high level of satisfaction amongst City residents, but high prices have excluded many people from the market. It is important to bear in mind the distinction between housing **demand** which is based on market forces and housing **need** which addresses the problem of providing housing at reasonable prices to everyone in the community.

- 4.2 In order to sustain a vibrant social and economic community it is essential that the residents represent a cross-section of society both economically and culturally. Cicestrians, many of them ageing, depend on lower paid workers in the public and private sectors who already have a wide choice of working locations. Increasing the supply of housing and of more affordable housing aimed at working households is not a choice but a necessity. A balance between living, working, studying and leisure is essential.
- 4.3 There are a number of ill-used and under-used sites (e.g. worked-out gravel pits and redundant light industry sites) where a more proactive approach is required; for example gravel extraction sites have been imaginatively used for housing in some countries. Some relocations in the private and public sectors might be encouraged. Local authorities should take an urgent look at their own property holdings and needs to determine whether present activities represent the best use of often very valuable land and buildings. There are two absolutely key sites, at Graylingwell and at Roussillon Barracks, where there is considerable scope for housing, if other priorities (e.g. the University or the Ministry of Defence) do not prevail.
- 4.4 The Local Authorities must be involved in decision-making about the greenfield areas on which building *might* have to be allowed. Further developments to the south of the City and on the Manhood Peninsula must be put on hold until the A27 problem has been resolved; and the spread of the City westwards across Centurion Way should be seen as a last resort. The authorities should first consider ways and means of persuading developers to work with the policy of **brownfield sites first** e.g. through Community Land Trusts, compulsory purchase and Section 106 Planning Agreements. Any developments must take into consideration the need for infrastructure to make them sustainable communities. Infrastructure not only includes transport requirements but also education, social and medical needs as well as provision of utilities of which sewerage capacity is a major constraint.
- 4.5 Given the difficulties that inevitably arise in a City which commands such a high premium and where housing is expensive, the various provisions made for the disadvantaged and less affluent to benefit from social housing (key workers, young families, disabled people etc.) must be kept under continuous review; the proportion of affordable new housing in each new development within the City boundaries, should not be less than 30%. A social and economic balance geared to the City's requirements and designed to express inclusiveness and solidarity is important.
- 4.6 New housing should be built at the highest densities compatible with the character of the locations in which it takes place; but the City's tradition of green fingers, of interlinking green walkways, and of access to the countryside should be imaginatively furthered. Key areas that should be considered for better maintenance and additional planting include Centurion Way, the canal and the fragile open space between Barnfield/Summersdale and Goodwood.
- 4.7 In its own way the maintenance, enhancement and further development of the public realm, e.g. parks and walkways within and between sites, is as important as are the bricks and mortar. The responses to the Questionnaire demonstrate very clearly how much the City's green places are valued by everyone in the City irrespective of age

(see Figure 6 below). Care needs to be taken to apply the guidance provided in the Conservation Area Appraisal and in the Design Guides.

- 4.8 Dialogue with the public on housing plans and programmes is vital. An Annual Report which clearly sets out achievements against objectives and explains any divergence between the two is desirable. It is important to improve consultation and involve local communities in the development that affects them. “Planning for real” approaches, such as the “Whyke Master Plan” should be strongly promoted. This approach should also be considered when tackling key sites like Southgate.
- 4.9 The City Council will encourage resident associations to produce Neighbour Character Appraisals as exemplified by the Summersdale Neighbourhood Character Appraisal (annexe 4) which forms part of the Town Plan as a means of providing substantive evidence when applications are reviewed.

## V A VISION OF THE CITY'S CULTURAL, LEISURE AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Chichester's facilities are greatly appreciated across all age groups and have the potential to be developed into an asset of national and indeed international importance. But the cultural and leisure activities need to be further broadened. Younger residents must be helped to articulate and to secure better provision for their needs.

Q, C, WG

FIGURE 5

Main Leisure Activities by Age Group

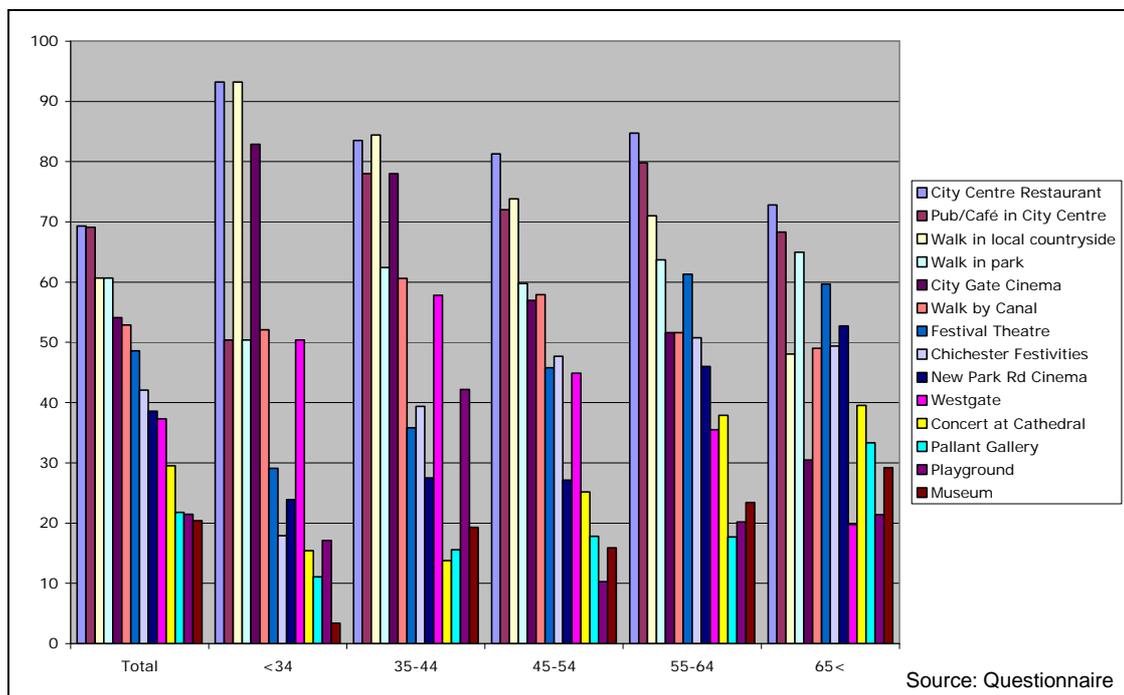
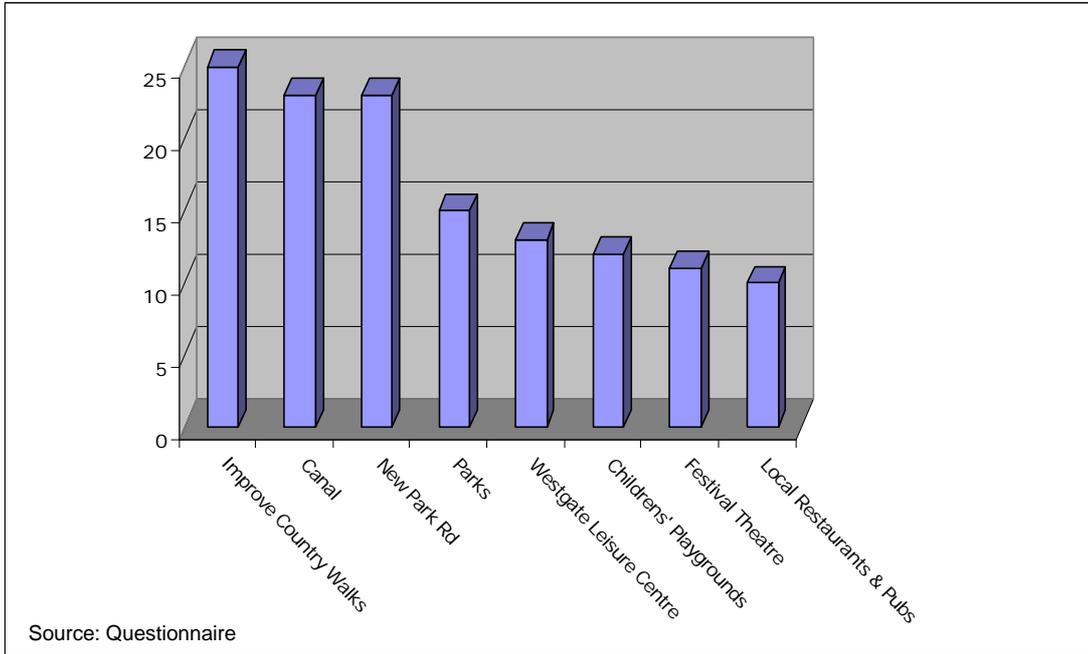


Figure 5 shows wholly predictably differences between age groups. More striking is the fact that all age groups (albeit in proportions which decrease as age rises) want to see greater priority given to sport and leisure facilities for young people. Figures 6 and 7 are very clear on this.

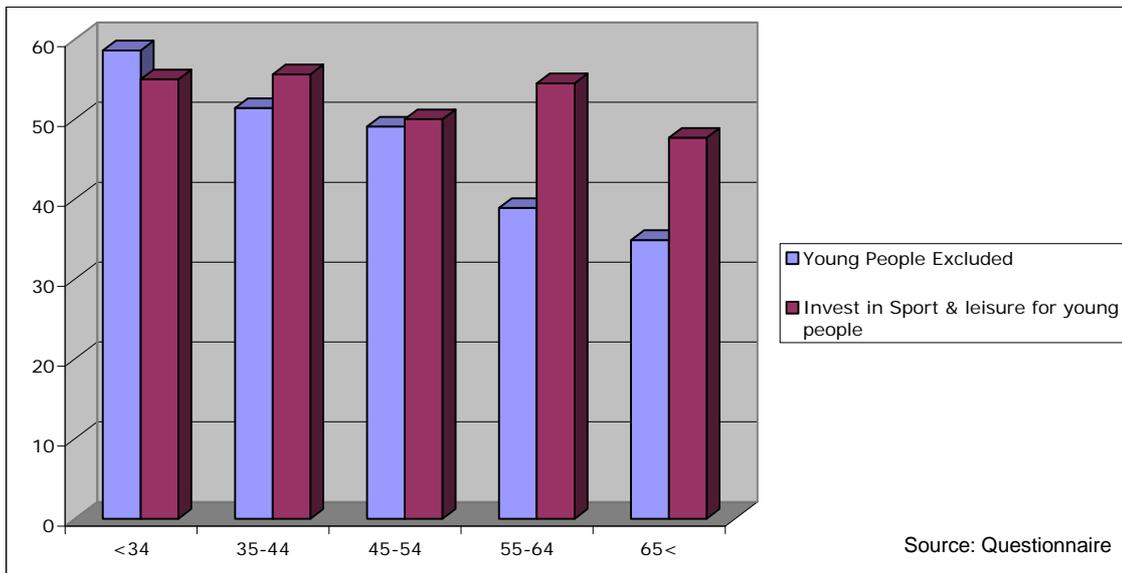
**FIGURE 6**

**What Should Councils Support?**



**FIGURE 7**

**Perceptions by Age Groups of the Exclusion of Young People and Supporting Investment in them**



### Update since the last Town Plan

- ? **The Strategy remains largely unchanged from the last Town Plan and is outlined below but there has been considerable progress in many of the action areas.**
- ? **The Chichester Sports Network has been set up by the District Council to co-ordinate the sports and leisure facilities, clubs and societies taken over from the Chichester Sports Forum set up as a result of the last Town Plan.**
- ? **A Master Plan has been drawn up for Priory Park which would give improved facilities for cricket, hockey and bowls. Plans are currently awaiting capital finance from the District Council but remain a priority.**
- ? **Florence Road has a new sports pitch and facilities**
- ? **Bishop Palace Gardens have been subject to a redesign which will greatly enhance this facility. Work is due to commence 3Qtr 2009.**
- ? **Planning permission has been granted for a much improved facilities at New Park Centre.**
- ? **The Graylingwell development will give better sports provision at the Haverstock Park with a new pavilion and pitches. The provision of allotments is also to be welcomed. The loss of the Graylingwell theatre means that this facility cannot be used as a much needed Community theatre.**
- ? **The South West Arts Group continue to strengthen the Arts and Culture facilities In Chichester and there are plans to make Chichester, a City of Arts and Heritage and bid for Chichester - City of Culture for 2012.**
- ? **A new museum is planned for Tower Street but there are reservations as to whether this will be a successful project. Support for a new museum in the last town plan was minimal.**

### The Strategy

- ? **Continued support for the City's main traditional attractions – the Cathedral, the Festival Theatre and the Festivities – and increased support for the New Park Centre.** Q, C  
WG
- ? **The provision of the widest possible range of sports and leisure facilities, that will allow all age groups to partake, but with emphasis on the young.** Q, C
- ? **Consideration of the land use implications of enhanced sport and** C, WG

*leisure facilities.*

- ? **Annual budgetary provision to ensure that leisure facilities for younger people receive the resources they need.** Q, WG
- ? **The establishment of a Forum for the medium to long term planning and co-ordination of all sports and leisure facilities.** Q, C

**The Issues for Action**

- ? **Increase the number of playing fields and all-weather surfaces available with full community use.** Q, C
- ?
- ? **Upgrade children's and young people's facilities in the open community areas (including all weather surfaces and kick about facilities – as at Summersdale).** Q, C
- ? **Provide an improved skate board park and an all weather jogging track at the Westgate Leisure Centre (and a boom for swimmers in training).** C
- ? **Improve the facilities in Priory park in line with the master plan to meet a wider range of needs, including cricket, hockey and bowls, combined with more intensive use of the Guildhall.** C
- ? **Extend and improve walkways, cycle-ways and the canal towpath.** Q
- ? **Develop the Bishop's Garden as an educational facility and tourist venue.** C
- ? **Better maintained allotment areas.** Q
- ? **Provide improved and extended facilities at the New Park Centre.** C, WG
- ? **Appraise all existing facilities within and close to the City with a view to determining, in close cooperation with the South West Sussex Arts Group, how best they can be shared and integrated.** Q
- ? **Establish a Strategic Forum to draw together information on all facilities, public and private and to coordinate and thus maximise their use.** Q

## Background Thinking

- 5.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy for Chichester District (August 2004), a very detailed and thorough report, underlines that:
- (i) of the 226 pitches identified in the District, only 98 have secured community use, including only 1 of the 95 maintained by the largest provided, i.e. the Local Education Authority,
  - (ii) there are short-falls in the City in Junior Football (5 pitches), cricket (5 pitches) and Junior Rugby which should be addressed,
  - (iii) the population of the district is predicted to increase by nearly 6% and probably by more in the City, and
  - (iv) the number of students at the University and College coming from outside the district is likely to be exceeded by young Cicestrians studying elsewhere (hence the possibility of additional need here too).

The shortage of sporting facilities for girls is even more striking.

- 5.2 Within the City bounds the one place that could solve the shortfall is Graylingwell. The presently available areas there contain 4 spaces for playing fields, one with a charming small cricket pavilion, and in addition a long piece of ground on the eastern side of the complex which has already been marked out as a recreational area. They all enjoy the advantage of being on higher ground (25m above sea level) which drains considerably better than the areas lower down towards the centre of the City which are only 10m to 15m above sea level.
- 5.3 Despite the shortfalls, it is apparent that the present facilities, public and private, which together cover a wide range of activities are **under**-used. The Working Group therefore recommends that an appraisal of them should be undertaken to determine to what extent and in what ways they might be shared and thus opened up to more people. Subject to financial exigencies, Youth Training Schemes might be established, with paid staff as/if necessary not only to promote the more traditional sports but also to introduce young people to other activities. A Sports and Leisure Forum might be set up to flesh out these ideas and to oversee the implementation and management of agreed schemes.

- 5.4 The new facilities at New Park Centre are welcome but car parking provision during the daytime is a cause for concern. In addition the creation, in partnership with other stakeholder organisations, of an Arts and Leisure Forum, in which the Sports and Leisure Forum suggested above *might* be integrated would be very useful. As the South West Sussex Arts Group has recently made clear, there is a need for much more cooperative arrangements to help the City promote its cultural profile in an effective way and to keep it abreast of changing needs particularly if it is to bid for the 2013 City of Culture.
- 5.5 None of these proposals in any way call into question the immense contributions made to the life of the City by the Cathedral, the Theatre and the Festivities. The Cathedral has already opened itself up to a wonderful range of events, secular as well as sacred. The Theatre has recently taken commendable steps to open up its appeal to the widest possible range of people, including the young. Year on year the organisers and sponsors of the Festivities produce an extraordinarily broad programme of talks, concerts and other events designed to appeal to all tastes.
- 5.6 Against this background the Working Group suggests that, through their Youth Council, young people should bring forward proposals of their own for ways and means in which they could further contribute to some of these activities – e.g. the lunchtime concerts, theatre productions and festival events. Increased participation depends not only on the City Authorities but also on young people themselves.

## VI A VISION FOR TRANSPORT

***The survey suggests that transport issues are seen in a negative light by respondents and that there is a car-centric culture in Chichester. This must be taken fully into account alongside the introduction of better transport systems in the City.***

### **The Strategy**

***Our strategy is to generally encourage cycling and walking, to generally discourage cars from entering the historic centre, to relieve congestion blackspots and improve public transport by better integration.***

### **Issues for Action**

- ? **Improvement of the City gateways to slow traffic and make them more pedestrian and cycle friendly.**
- ? **Construction of a new road across the Graylingwell site to relieve Spitalfield Lane.**
- ? **Expansion of capacity at the Northgate and Cattle Market car parks.**
- ? **Green travel plans (park and ride) for major employers.**
- ? **Better integration of bus and rail journeys.**
- ? **Realtime information at bus stops.**
- ? **Improvements to the pedestrian approaches to the City centre by pavement widening facilitated by a one way system in West and South Streets**
- ? **Limitation of delivery times in South and West Streets**
- ? **Bus pass scheme for students to discourage car use.**
- ? **Cycleway improvements to make for pleasant and uninterrupted riding.**
- ? **Car sharing schemes.**

### **Background Thinking**

6.1 Chichester is a large market town, small city, which people need to reach from areas too sparsely populated to make public transport frequent or convenient. Its suburbs are not large enough to justify frequent buses but sufficiently distant to discourage walking. Some car use is inevitable. Cycling, walking and scooters should be encouraged.

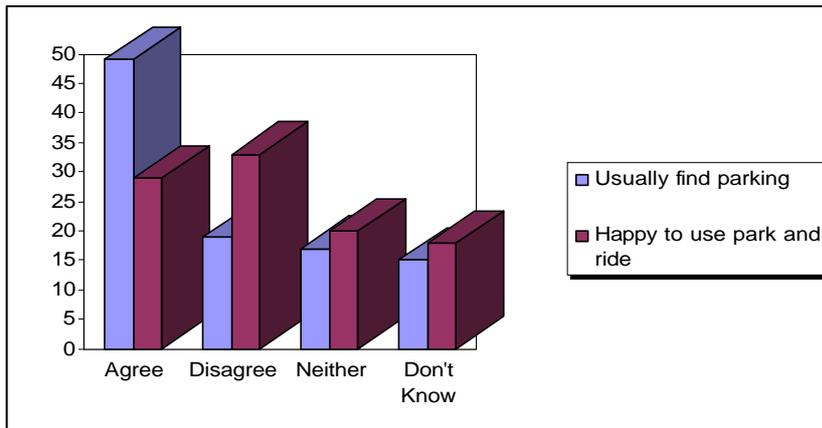
6.2 The City has advantages on which it must capitalise: its compact size which facilitates walking from the main car parks; the existence of an inner ring-road which makes pedestrianisation possible; its level nature which lends itself to cycling.

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6.3 The gateways to the City, such as Northgate gyratory, were designed in the 1970s when traffic engineers were anxious to speed traffic flow. Today the emphasis is more on roads which are easy to cross and safe for cycles. Our gyratories, particularly Northgate need redesigning to modern standards.  
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6.4 Spitalfield Lane and Westhampnett Road are very often very congested with motor vehicles. We believe that they would be considerably relieved by the construction of a well designed road extending the Eastern Relief Road to Broyle Road. We appreciate that the residents of Wellington Road would not welcome this and suggest that the new route might run to the north of their properties through the barracks site. As a first step the whole route should be safeguarded.

**Attitudes to Car Parking**

Only about 50% of respondents say they are confident of finding a car parking space when they need one but there is only limited support (less than 30%) for Park and Ride



Source: Questionnaire

Figure 8

6.5 With the development of Graylingwell and other sites the major car parks at Northgate and the Cattlemarket will need expansion. It is not realistic to think that residents will always walk or cycle or take buses to the centre. Though we welcome the proposed introduction of a frequent Graylingwell bus service, extra parking demand is likely. From a conservation viewpoint we would much prefer an underground level at Northgate though appreciate that this would be expensive. However we are not convinced that the expense would be prohibitive and would like this explored in greater detail. A single deck is preferred but if demand requires multi-storey parking, we would prefer this to be low and designed with special care as at Southgate.

6.6 We are doubtful about park and ride for the general public and note that Horsham has had great difficulty in establishing it. However we note that County Hall and East Pallant House, for example, have large staffs who arrive and leave at similar times. A park and ride scheme for these and other major employers may well be practical and would reduce long term parking at County Hall and in the Cattle Market.

6.7 We should like to improve public transport by the physical integration of rail and bus stations at the rail station but accept that this is unlikely to be economically practical. However timetable and ticketing integration of road and rail would be possible and would make for faster and more reliable connections by public transport.

6.8 We note that recent changes in railway operational procedure have shortened waiting at the level crossings and welcome this.

6.9 We advocate the introduction of real time information on bus stops throughout the City.

People will wait for buses if there is a consistent frequent service

6.10 West and South Streets should be made one way west-east/north-south. This would permit carriageway reduction and pavement widening particularly: in South Street by HSBC where the east pavement is narrow; elsewhere in South Street where pavement cafes might operate; in Southgate from Old Market Avenue south to the junction with the one way system. This last improvement would remove a pedestrian bottleneck and considerably enhance the approach to the City for those arriving by public transport. In the long term we would welcome further pedestrianisation of this route.

6.11 There is scope for pavement widening in East Street opposite New Look. The three parking bays on the south side should be removed and the southern pavement widened accordingly between Baffins Lane and Eastgate Square. There is very considerable pedestrian use of this section by people going to the Market Road bus stops, the Cattle Market car park and the markets.

6.12 There is scope for pavement widening in North Street around Fernleigh. The parking bays should be removed on one side and the pavement widened to improve pedestrian flow from the Northgate car park.

6.13 The West Street roundabout is redundant now that West Street is no longer a significant route into Chichester and removal should be considered. One benefit would be that pedestrians walking east/west would be saved considerable diversions and pedestrian flow from the west and the college would be improved.

6.14 If West Street does become one way buses should wait in the Avenue de Chartres lay-by for the Post Office bus stop to be free. An automatic signalling device between the Post Office and the lay-by would prevent strings of buses queuing outside the Post Office.

6.15 To further improve the environment for pedestrians in the city centre we advocate that delivery times in West and South Streets should be limited to mornings and evenings as in North and East Streets.

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6.16 We understand that the College and University are considering making bus pass ownership mandatory for some students. We recognise that it may be difficult to design a suitable scheme but feel the idea has the potential to reduce car use by students. We would welcome this.

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6.17 Cycleways need to be pleasant to ride if use is to increase. An example of an unpleasant route is the cycleway south along Broyle Road beside Oaklands Park which is very narrow. A dual use footpath in the park itself would be a much better solution.

6.18 Cycleways need to be continuous and to lead to useful destinations. An example of an incomplete route is the cycle route out of the City centre to Portfield which is splendidly quiet to within about 150 metres of its destination where it joins the busy Westhampnett Road. The eastern pavement should be converted to shared pedestrian/cycle use for that section, completing the route.

6.19 Cycleways need adequate signposting – we recommend marking lamp posts on the principal routes. As routes sometimes change direction abruptly this simple idea would help avoid over-shooting – easy, for example, where the South Coast route from Portsmouth swings south from Westgate to the college.

6.20 Cycleways need to be safe - we should like to see routes completed to Sustrans standards - safe for a sensible ten year old to ride alone. Some are very poorly designed and dangerous. For example East Pallant House to the Cattle Market involves crossing five traffic streams in 100m. It is dangerous, convoluted and unsuitable for children. We suspect it was created to meet a target of metres constructed rather than serve the public.

6.21 There is a great deal of latent demand for cycle parking as was discovered when the new station racks had to be trebled. We should like to see greater provision of cycle racks throughout the City centre.

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6.22 In a large market town, small city, where many journeys can be made on foot or cycle, residents will still sometimes need use of a car. Car sharing schemes would be useful for this and would help reduce peak congestion. We feel that local government could have a useful role in the facilitation of such schemes and should consider how it could help.

## VII A VISION FOR TOURISM, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Tourism and trade, with services and light industry, are the life blood of the City's economy. Whilst Chichester should remain a sub-regional shopping centre, it must be a vital and varied one. Since 2005, the City Centre Manager and the Steering Group partnership have been very active in promoting the City's trading image, and the New Park Centre is entering into a new phase in existence, soon to be offering a centre of activity and information for the voluntary groups.

Q, C

FIGURE 9

Perception by Residents that a Greater Diversity of Shops are needed in the City Centre

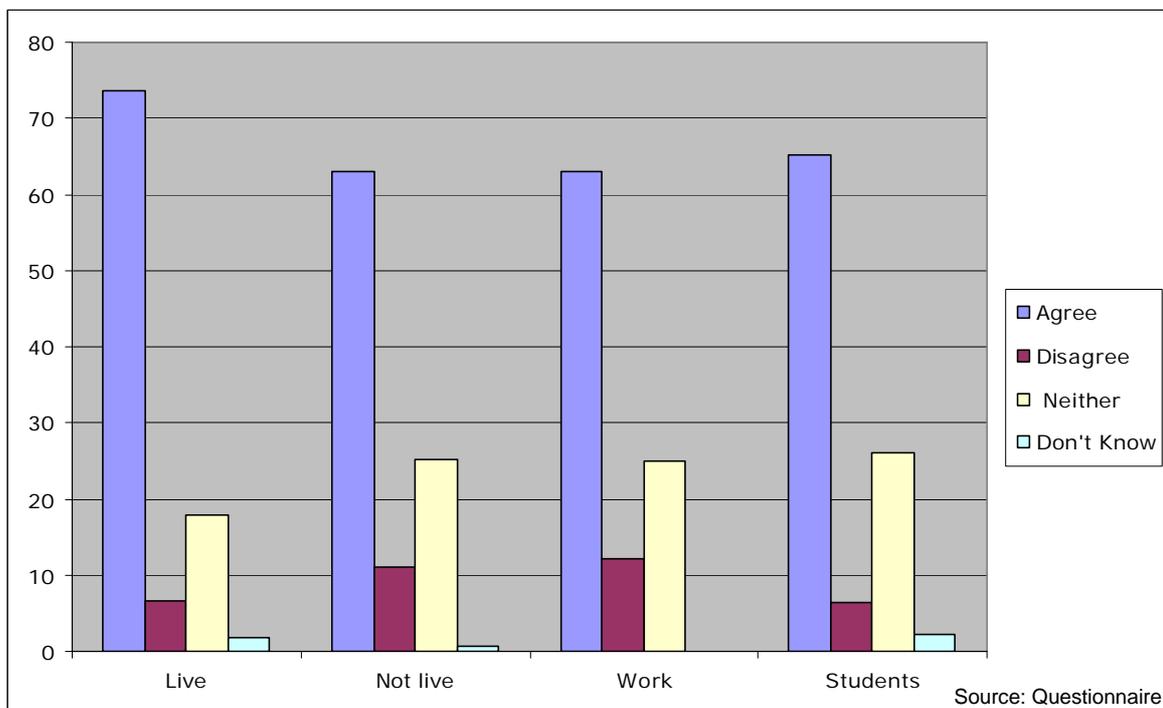


Figure 9 shows that an impressive majority want greater diversity of shops in the City centre. This must be part of a broader vision.

### The Strategy

? *Develop the cultural and leisure facilities of the City and its surrounds into a national and international asset.* **WG**

? *Encourage smaller shop units, niche market and local shops rather than chain stores in partnership with the City Centre* **Q**

## **Manager.**

- ? ***Broaden the City's overall appeal through a greater diversity of both shops and other facilities.*** Q
  
- ? ***Concentrate trade and commerce on the industrial estates at Quarry Lane, Terminus Road and Portfield with no further expansion on the periphery.*** Q, WG
  
- ? ***Creation of a recognisable Chichester City brand image, to enable the City to promote itself more effectively as a centre of culture and leisure.*** Q, C WG

## **Issues for Action**

- ? ***Chichester City Council to confer with the City Centre Manager and the strategic partnership and the Chamber of Commerce on the best ways of promoting strong and diverse retail activity in the centre.*** WG Q
  
- ? ***Resistance to changes of use that do not tend in the direction of local, niche market or daily needs shops.*** WG
  
- ? ***Provision of coach pick-up and set-down points around the inner ring (station, cattle market, Westgate, theatre) and of well-signed coach parks.*** C, WG
  
- ? ***Promotion of a second Roamer bus to serve the area to the west of the City.*** Q, C WG
  
- ? ***Incentives for visitors to park outside the centre, by offering vouchers that would reduce or eliminate the cost of travel within it.*** C, WG
  
- ? ***Collection of the statistics needed to promote the City's brand image.*** WG

## **Background Thinking**

7.1 Members of the Working Group have sounded out a number of large and small businesses but, mindful of the Chamber of Commerce's consultations with its members on a City Centre Strategic Business Plan, they have not sought to duplicate work in progress. The Group would like to put forward the following suggestions at this interim stage:

- ? Encourage the City Centre Manager to focus primarily on promoting the City's brand image and greater diversity in the central areas,
  - ? in the wake of the retail study under way, keep present and likely retail uses and needs under continuous review,
  - ? interpret and implement the rules governing change of use of commercial premises in ways that help the Councils to achieve the desired objective of diversity.
- 7.2 Tourism is Chichester's biggest earner ( $\pm$  £50 million a year). Over 150,000 people visit the Cathedral each year; it is estimated that the Theatre alone brings in £5 to £8 million a year and jobs in this sector have been increasing fast (plus 15% between 1991 and 2003). Improvements in the City's main attractions have been and are being made by: the Cathedral, through a vibrant educational programme and a broader spread of events; the Theatre in reaching out to a wider audience; the Festivities through vigorous and imaginative planning; and Pallant House, winner Gulbenkian Prize for museums and galleries for 2007
- 7.3 There are other steps which are important to any improvement of the City's "Offer" to tourists, which the City and District Councils might seek to push forward, namely:-
- (i) the construction of new hotels, particularly in the centre of City such as the new Travel Lodge and the provision of a high quality boutique hotel.
  - (ii) the establishment of a second Roamer bus route to serve the area to the west of the City i.e. Stansted Park, the Downs, Uppark, Bosham etc.,
  - (iii) the creation of a large green and flat area opposite the Cathedral in West Street (the site of the Roman Forum), to create a large space in the middle of the City where people can gather/stroll and simply sit in the sun.
- 7.4 There must also be better promotion of the City as such. The statistics on the City as opposed to the District and the County that are necessary for a confident and vigorous "brand appeal" do not seem to exist. Accurate statistics need to be prepared about visitors and tourists coming to the **City**; and on the basis of these a comprehensive Brochure and Website should be written. These should recall the City's multi-layered history (Roman, Saxon, Norman and so on), draw attention to the variety of its industries (Rolls Royce to Wileys), list its combination of shops, restaurants and cultural institutions. A Shoppers Guide (with signs and pictures for disabled people and full information for the elderly) is also needed. Together these should be spread around hotels, the Tourist Information Centre and all parts of the public realm and sent to the main tourist gateways. It is important to the City that tourists be persuaded to stay in the City for more than just one day.

## VIII A Vision for a Sustainable society

*Chichester - a City prepared for the future*

Climate Change is now a matter of fact even though the causes are still being debated. Every action has an impact on the environment and there is now a need to ensure Chichester works towards a vision of sustainability and reduced carbon footprint for the future.

Q

### The Strategy

- ? ***The City Council to show leadership in sustainability reviewing initially the Council House*** C
- ? ***Work closely with the District Council and other partners in promoting the saving of energy and a sustainable life style*** C
- ? ***Use the Power of Well Being( enhanced Parish Council powers) to encourage energy saving schemes in the community.*** C

### Issues for Action

- ? ***Carry out a survey and audit of the Council house obtaining funding from [www.communitysustainable.org.uk](http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk) and then apply to the Carbon Trust for grants to carry the work required***
- ? ***Ensure that all actions taken by the City Council have an underlining principle of Sustainability and encourage local action.***
- ? ***Encourage individuals through series of environmental fairs or seminars giving the correct information on how to reduce energy consumption and save money by efficient use of energy.***
- ? ***Encourage local sourcing of produce to reduce carbon miles in transporting goods, grow your own and recycling***
- ? ***Promote and encourage the principle of Fair Trade and continue Chichester as a Fair Trade City.***
- ? ***Promote the local generation of heat and electricity using solar panels, biomass systems and encourage zero carbon developments within Chichester such as Graylingwell.***

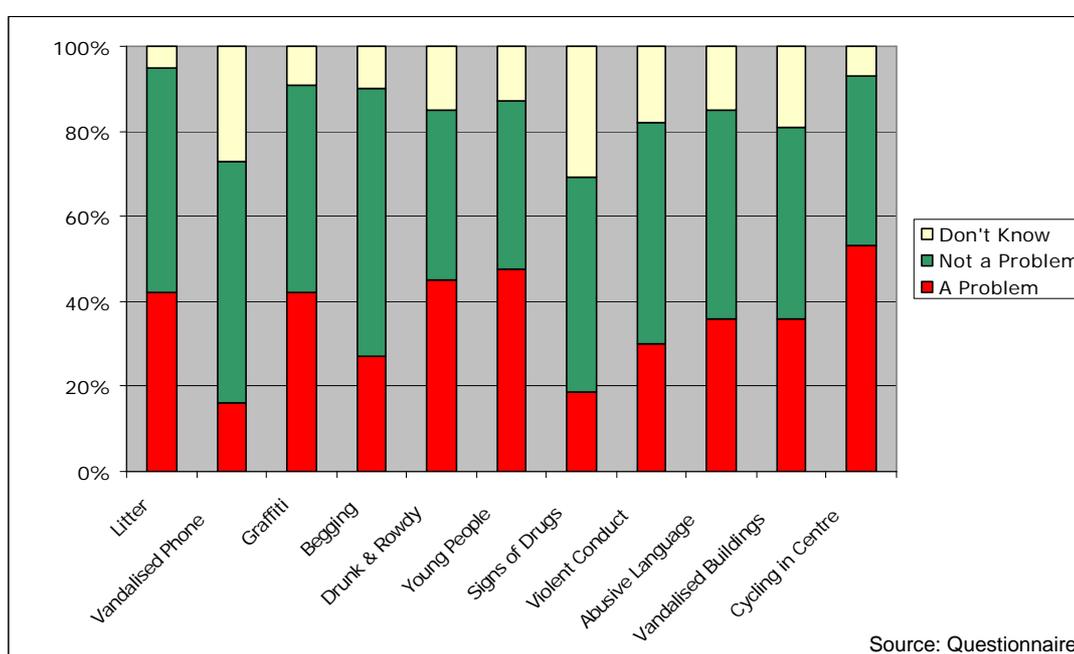
## IX A VISION FOR ALL

At many points in this Report reference has been made to particular groups and the steps needed to help them. Responses to the Questionnaire could not by definition, throw light on all of these. But in the attitude of all age groups to the young, these responses reveal a sensitivity to the relatively disadvantaged, which the Consultations confirm. The City should build on this.

Q

FIGURE 10

### Problems in the City Centre



*Note: the term young people refers to antisocial behaviour by young persons*

### The Strategy

- ? **Involve young people more effectively in the future shaping of the City on a specific Chichester City Youth Council.** Q
- ? **Bring Church, Town and Gown more closely together –Cathedral, City, University, College and Schools.** Q, C
- ? **Integrate the disabled and other special groups fully into the community.** Q
- ? **Press the Strategic Health Authority to ensure that effective healthcare is available to all.** C, WG

***Issues for Action*** (as indicated in the Questionnaire and Consultations with regard to the following groups)

### **Students**

- ? ***Steps to welcome all students more effectively into the life of the City.*** C, WG
- ? ***Celebration of the University's fully independent status which could be developed into an annual celebration of all tertiary education in the City.*** WG

### **Young People**

- ? ***Better dialogue with the Youth Council, through a supplementary questionnaire directed at young people and through consultation with schools.*** Q, C
- ? ***Higher priority for the Youth Budget.*** WG
- ? ***Help in providing dedicated premises/spaces for young people and improving information flows about these.*** C, WG

### **The Disabled**

- ? ***Full implementation of the 2005 Disability Discrimination Act to promote equality and accessibility.*** C, WG
- ? ***Improvement of highway and pavement conditions.*** C, WG
- ? ***Greater use of visuals and pictures to help those with learning disabilities and an increase in public subsidy to help provide these with better premises and/or to cover administrative costs.*** C, WG

### **The Elderly**

- ? ***More community policing.*** Q, C
- ? ***Improved information on the accessibility of all public and private facilities.*** C
- ? ***More civility in streets, shops and public places.*** Q, C
- ? ***Retention of the Dial-a-Ride services such as Chichester Community Transport with the necessary subsidies.*** C

### **The Community**

? **Provision of a new health centre in the eastern part of the city.** Q

**Background Thinking**

- 9.1 The City takes pride in its two institutions of **tertiary education** but students do not feel that it has yet sufficiently adapted its profile and facilities to meet their needs and tastes. Together with them, the City and District Councils should develop reciprocal cultural “offers” to which both can contribute and from which both should be able to profit. The transformation of the University College into a fully-fledged University presents an ideal opportunity to promote this end.
- 9.2 **Chichester Area Youth Council** is enthusiastic about the concept of being more involved in decision making on matters of concern to them. Its representatives have indicated to us that they would welcome a short *supplementary* questionnaire in language to which the young people can readily relate. The results of this should help the City bring forward ideas on the ways in which the District Council’s Statement of Community Involvement might be further developed. Through dialogue with Head Teachers issues of civic design and development, sport and leisure and so on might be carried forward in the schools, perhaps in informal sessions. Nb: information about the activities and clubs available to young people is available in the Information Shop for Young People (which provides information, advice and counselling); also in District Council and County Council publications.
- 9.3 For the **physically disabled**, the single most helpful step would be the stringent enforcement of the laws on access (which can often be achieved at very low cost). They do however share with the elderly a real interest in seeing pedestrianisation extended, pavements improved, the use of “sleeping policemen” as traffic-calming measures ended (“table bumps” or “zigzags” are more friendly) and more 20mph speed limits applied.
- 9.4 For those with **learning disabilities**, the greater use of visuals and pictures in all public information material would be a great boon. Help is also needed to obtain more suitable office premises (with accessible WCs and to cover administrative costs more reliably).
- 9.5 Permanent lines of communication with groups representing the **elderly** proved difficult to establish. Age Concern highlights the need for seats (outside and in shops), accessibility, home deliveries and transport (e.g. Dial-a-Ride, which urgently needs a guaranteed, permanent subsidy) as key concerns. In addition, like many of the disabled, the elderly express concern about uneven and narrow pavements and speed humps. They are also much concerned about the decline in manners which comes through strongly in responses to the Questionnaire (see Figure 10 above). Both the elderly and the disabled list litter, vandalised phones, aggressive and sometimes drugs-led begging, threatening conduct and abusive language among the things they most dislike. They are clearly part of the perception of the majority that want more visible community policing, although levels of crime are extremely low in Chichester.

## X THE VISION AND THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF)

### The Strategy

- ? *maintain a permanent dialogue with both the community and with the District Council, and*
- ? *keep the City's interests and views to the fore, by briefing District Council representatives attending meetings of the South East England Regional Assembly*  
WG

### Background Thinking

- 10.1 The South Eastern region of England as presently constituted is a purely artificial administrative artefact; to be effective and acceptable the planning of its development must take full account of its main constituent areas. It is for example far from evident that Oxon, Berks and Bucks sit easily together with Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey, or with Kent. The City Council must bring its influence to bear through the District Council, when key questions touching on Chichester's identity and on its varied interests, are discussed in the South East England Regional Assembly.
- 10.2 The Working Group therefore fully endorses the objection voiced by the Chichester Society to any attempt to submerge Chichester into the artificial construct of the "coastal sub-region". It is evident that "Chichester's character, economy and social structure differ markedly from those of the coastal towns which have been highlighted as needing economic and physical regeneration".
- 10.3 The Working Group therefore hopes that the LDF will clearly recognise the City as an economic and social entity in its own right, allowing Chichester to grow as a Cathedral, market and cultural centre in the ways that respondents have indicated.
- 10.4 Given the limitations of the Questionnaire and Consultations, there is clearly a need to ensure that this Report is the beginning and not the end of a process. More work is required on a number of local, particular and minority interests. If the City Council is to be able not only to contribute to the evolving Core strategy of the Local Development Framework, , there must be ongoing dialogue with the Community to sustain an input as circumstances develop.
- 10.5 Over the coming months this dialogue should concentrate on what members of the Working Group perceive as the **six key ideas**, on which further consultation with the public needs to be taken at the earliest possible date.
- (i) **The creation of a mixed-use Transport Hub in the Southgate area.**
  - (ii) **The extension of leisure facilities and help for the New Park Centre.**
  - (iii) **More effective consultation with and enhanced provision for young people.**

- (iv) The better maintenance and the extension of the public realm - the walkways and cycleways, the parks and the canal.**
- (v) The extension of pedestrianisation and the development of the Cathedral green**
- (vi) The concept of car parks as a “development resource”, where the triple objective of keeping parking spaces, incorporation of retail development and reducing the visual impact of the car can be achieved.**

## **APPENDIX A**

### **BASIC FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT CHICHESTER**

Figures from 2006 (Census - Office of National Statistics) unless otherwise stated

#### **Area**

- ? 1,066.6 hectares

#### **Population**

- ? Total: 25,200
- ? Population of District increased by 27% 1971 to 2006
- ? Population expected to grow by 4.76p% by 2011

#### **Age and Gender**

- ? 45.6% Male, 54.4% Female
- ? Average age 42.5 ("Youngest" area Chichester East, average age 38, "Oldest" area Chichester West, average age 46.8)
- ? Change in population 60+ (2001 -2011) +8%
- ? Change in population 80+ (2001 -2011) +8%

#### **Household size**

- ? 2.2 people per household

#### **Ethnicity**

- ? very low black and minority ethnic population
- ? highest proportion of population from black and minority ethnic groups 2.28% in Chichester East

#### **Deprivation**

- ? Not especially deprived by county or national standards, although there is significant variation throughout Chichester District
- ? Most deprived - Chichester East = ranked 2,848 out of 8,404 wards nationwide

#### **Employment**

**Diverse** growing economy mainly based on tourism, retail, financial and administrative services and public sector employment

- ? Average gross weekly earnings in the District: £452.46 (male) £373.77 (female)
- ? Average gross weekly earnings in West Sussex : £515.79 (male) £371.15 (female)
- ? Unemployment = 1.1% (July 2004) (GB = 2.3%)

## **Housing**

- ? Average House Prices (House Sales July Chichester District)
- ? Detached £427,886
- ? Semi-detached £297,170
- ? Terraced £285,314
- ? Flat/Maisonette £181,552

## **Tenure**

- ? Owner occupied = 62%
- ? Housing Association or Registered Social Landlord = 23%
- ? Private and other rented = 15%

## **Car Ownership**

- ? Households with no car or van = 16.4%
- ? Households with two or more cars or vans = 39.8%

## **Education**

- ? 8 primary schools with 1,786 pupils
- ? 3 secondary schools with 4,290 pupils
- ? 2 special educational needs schools with 309 pupils (October 2004)

## **Health**

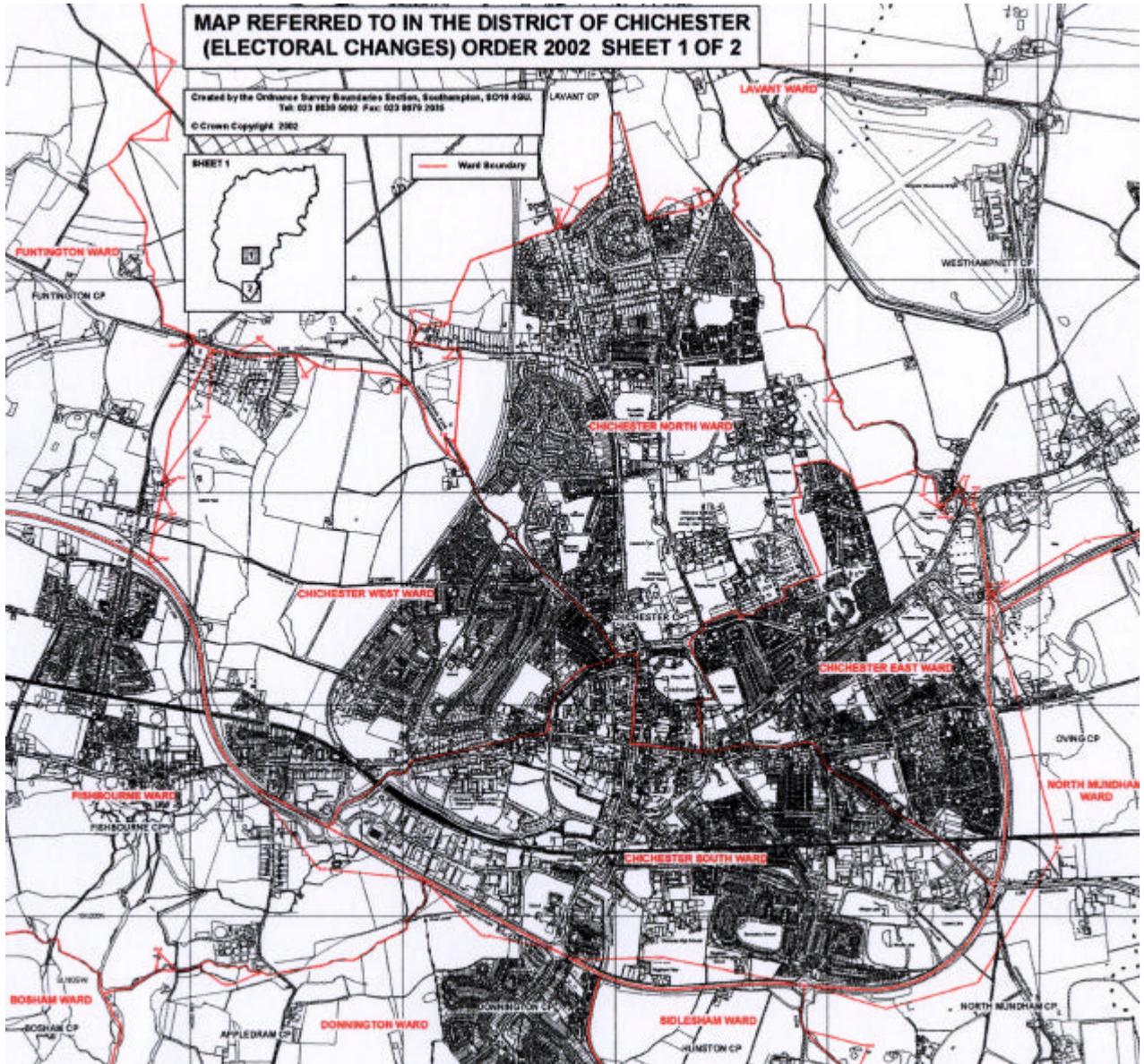
- ? Death rates amongst population below 75 years of age is below average
- ? Male life expectancy = 77.9 (England average 77.4)
- ? Female life expectancy = 82.4 (England average 81.5)

## **Crime**

- ? Rates below, national and Sussex average
- ? Most crime relates to cars and property rather than violence against the person
- ? Most crime takes place in Chichester City Centre

**APPENDIX B**

**MAP OF CHICHESTER - SOURCED FROM ELECTORAL COMMISSION**



## ANNEXE 1

### THE SUMMARY RESULTS AND TEXT OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

#### SUMMARY

The **response rate** was good and, although there is an over-representation of the retired and of owner occupiers, the responses received may be regarded as reasonably representative and as statistically valid. The questions asked and responses received are set out in the **Documentation**, together with an interpretation of each Figure and the Survey Headlines presented by Dr Martin Innes to the public meeting held in June 2005.

#### The key elements of the Vision that emerge are as follows:-

- ? the protection and development of the existing character of the City as a regional arts and leisure centre and a distinct, albeit large, market town

Chichester City Council to influence the priorities and investment plans of stakeholder organisations in support of this and strengthen the hand of the local planning authority to resist major new commercial developments on the periphery.

- ? The protection of the essential physical character of Chichester including improvements in the upkeep of the public realm.
- ? The protection of Chichester's heritage within the Walls.
- ? The restriction of new developments, including housing, to brownfield sites.

Chichester City Council to win the cooperation of the local planning authority for this and press the local housing authority and the regional housing board to do more to meet the needs of the under 35s

- ? The protection and development of Chichester as a high-quality regional arts and leisure centre which appeals to all ages.

Chichester City Council to set up a City-wide Arts and Leisure Forum and offer to form a promotional partnership with the New Park Centre.

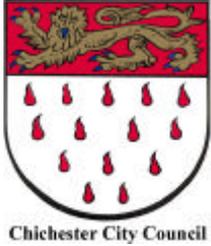
- ? Development of an inclusive "brand appeal" for Chichester, including a cultural shift to engage young people more in the shaping of the future of the City.

Chichester City Council to work with Chichester District Council to determine the arts and leisure facilities younger people need, to address the problems of anti-social behaviour; and to refer problems of access to health facilities to the Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trusts.

- ? Whilst protecting the interests of car users and noting residents' views on parking and Park and Ride, to bring about a shift in public perception and habit to place less relevance on the car and use other means of transport more.
- ? To promote strong and diverse retail activity in the centre.

Chichester City Council to call a Conference, with the Chamber of Commerce, on the best ways of doing this and encourage the planning authority to strengthen facilities in the centre and not to allow unhelpful change of use of neighbourhood shop units.

**TEXT OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON FOLLOWING PAGES**



## SHARE YOUR VISION, SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Chichester City Council is preparing a ‘*Vision For Chichester*’ that will help to shape how the City develops over the next decade. In order to ensure that this plan fully represents the views of Chichester’s communities, the Council would like to know your views about a range of issues. This questionnaire asks what it is that you like about Chichester, what you would like to see preserved, and those areas where you think there are opportunities for improvement in the future.

Please complete and return this questionnaire **by April 23<sup>rd</sup>** to make your contribution, through the City Council, to the formulation of a Vision that will influence all levels of local and central government.

Any data you provide will be used only for the purposes of this research and will not be passed on to any other organisation. Anonymity will be scrupulously maintained.

Q1. Please tick as many of the following statements as apply to you:

I live in Chichester	1
I work in Chichester	2
I study in Chichester	3

Q2. Thinking about the development of Chichester over the next ten years, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements. Please put a tick in the column that best matches your views about each statement. (There should be only one tick in each row)

	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know
a. It is important that any new buildings or renovation work in the City Centre (i.e. within the City walls) reflect its historic character.	1	2	3	4
b. Any new housing should first re-use urban (brown field) sites before any building is allowed on the rural and previously unused green field sites surrounding Chichester.	1	2	3	4
c. The City centre needs a more diverse range of shops to meet the needs of its people.	1	2	3	4
d. My neighbourhood needs a more diverse range of shops within walking distance, to meet the needs of local residents.	1	2	3	4
e. New shops should be located away from the City centre so that they can be easily reached by car.	1	2	3	4

Q3. Are your housing needs currently being met?

Yes  1      No  2

Q4. Are you thinking of moving house in the next 12 months?

Yes  1      PLEASE NOW ANSWER Q5  
No  2      PLEASE NOW SKIP TO Q6

- Q5. ONLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU TICKED 'Yes' TO Q4  
 What are your reasons for thinking of moving house in the next 12 months?  
 (Please tick as many reasons as apply to you from the list below.)

I / we require a smaller property	1
I / we require a larger property with more living space	2
I / we require a property with off-street parking and/or garden	3
My / our rental agreement is ending	4
Because of a job relocation	5
I / we are leaving the area	6
Other (please specify)	7

- Q6. Some people feel that the facilities and services available in Chichester do not meet the needs of everybody. In your opinion are any of the following groups missing out? (Please tick all that apply.)

Young people	1
Elderly people	2
People with physical disabilities	3
People with learning disabilities	4
People on low incomes	5
Other (please specify)	6

- Q7. Thinking about your own experiences of life in Chichester, how would you rate the quality of the following facilities and services? Please tick the box to indicate whether you would rate each one as Good, Neither good nor bad, or Bad.

	Good	Neither good nor bad	Bad	Don't know
a. The services provided by the local councils, in general	1	2	3	4
b. The cleanliness and upkeep of the pedestrian area of the City centre	1	2	3	4
c. The cleanliness and upkeep of the City's parks	1	2	3	4
d. The schools in Chichester	1	2	3	4
e. The range and quality of services provided by St. Richard's Hospital	1	2	3	4

- Q8. Thinking about how the following list of statements relate to your experiences of living in Chichester, please indicate whether you agree, neither agree nor disagree, or disagree with each one. (Only answer questions 8a and 8b if you use a doctor or dentist based in Chichester.)

	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know
a. I am able to get access to see a Chichester doctor when I need to.	1	2	3	4
b. I am able to get access to see a Chichester dentist when I need to.	1	2	3	4
c. I enjoy shopping in Chichester City centre.	1	2	3	4
d. Greater investment should be made in providing local sporting and leisure activities for young people.	1	2	3	4

Q9. Which, if any, of the following have you done in the past 12 months? (Please tick all that apply).

Been to see a play at the Festival Theatre	1
Attended an event organised as part of Chichester Festivities	2
Visited Chichester Museum	3
Been for a walk by the canal	4
Visited the Pallant Gallery (or would have if it had been open)	5
Attended a concert at the Cathedral	6
Eaten out in a restaurant in the City Centre	7
Been out for a drink with friends at pub or cafe in the City Centre	8
Been to the cinema at the City Gate complex	9
Been to the cinema at New Park Road	10
Used the children's playground in one of the parks	11
Been for a walk in one of the parks	12
Been for a walk in the local countryside	13
Used the facilities at the Westgate Leisure Centre	14

Q10. Which ONE of these would you most like to see money being spent on by the local councils?  
(Please tick just ONE of these.)

The Festival Theatre	1
Chichester Festivities	2
Chichester Museum	3
Chichester Canal	4
The Pallant Gallery	5
Support for the Cathedral	6
Support local restaurants and pubs	7
Support for the New Park Road cinema	8
Children's playgrounds in the parks	9
The parks (other than the playgrounds)	10
Improvements to walks and footpaths in the local countryside	11
The Westgate Leisure Centre	12

Q11. Please tick the appropriate box to indicate whether any of the following issues are a problem or not for you in the City Centre.

	A problem	Not a problem	Don't know
Litter and rubbish	1	2	3
Vandalised telephone boxes	1	2	3
Graffiti	1	2	3
Aggressive begging	1	2	3
People drunk and rowdy in public places	1	2	3
Young people hanging about and causing a nuisance	1	2	3
Signs of drug use	1	2	3
People being violent and aggressive in the street	1	2	3
People using abusive and threatening language	1	2	3
Vandalism of buildings	1	2	3
People cycling in the pedestrian precinct	1	2	3

Q12. How safe do you feel walking alone in your local area during the day?

Very safe  1      Fairly safe  2      A bit unsafe  3      Very unsafe  4

Q13. How safe do you feel walking alone in your local area at night?

Very safe  <sub>1</sub>      Fairly safe  <sub>2</sub>      A bit unsafe  <sub>3</sub>      Very unsafe  <sub>4</sub>

Q14. Do you agree or disagree with following statement? ‘I would support an increase in the standard Council Tax rate of £1 per month to provide a more visible local policing presence in Chichester.’

Agree  <sub>1</sub>      Neither agree or disagree  <sub>2</sub>      Disagree  <sub>3</sub>      Don't know  <sub>4</sub>

Q15. When travelling in and around Chichester, which of the following do you use on a regular basis? (Tick all that apply.)

Walking  <sub>1</sub>      Car  <sub>2</sub>      Motorbike  <sub>3</sub>      Taxi  <sub>4</sub>      Bus  <sub>5</sub>      Bicycle  <sub>6</sub>

Q16. When travelling from Chichester to other places, which of the following do you use on a regular basis?

Car  <sub>1</sub>      Motorbike  <sub>2</sub>      Bus  <sub>3</sub>      Bicycle  <sub>4</sub>      Train  <sub>5</sub>

Q17. Thinking about travelling in and around Chichester, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know
a. I can usually find a car parking space near the City centre when I need one.	1	2	3	4
b. I would be happy to park my car in a suitably located Park and Ride scheme and travel into the centre by a bus service.	1	2	3	4
c. There is a reliable bus service that takes me where I want to go.	1	2	3	4
d. Public cycle routes feel unsafe and / or unwelcoming	1	2	3	4

Q18. Thinking about Chichester's economy over the next ten years, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know
a. More should be done by the local councils to ensure that there are good quality local jobs for Chichester residents.	1	2	3	4
b. More needs to be done to retain existing businesses in Chichester.	1	2	3	4
c. There are adequate job opportunities for me in Chichester.	1	2	3	4

Q19. Please list the **three** things that you most like about Chichester.

.....

.....

.....

Q20. Please list the **three** things that you most dislike about Chichester.

.....

.....

.....

Q21. Please indicate how much you would favour each of these four alternative options for how Chichester could develop of the next few years. If you strongly favour a particular option, give it a score of 10 by ringing that number. If you would be strongly against an option, give it a score of 1. If you have no strong feelings either way about an option, give it a score of 5. You can use any score between 1 and 10. There should only be **one** number ringed in each row.

	Strongly against			Indifferent				Strongly in favour		
Expand Chichester into a commercial and retail centre with new business parks and more retail shopping such as large shopping mall developments	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Develop Chichester into a centre for Arts, Culture, Leisure and Tourism, maintaining strict conservation guidelines and supporting festivities, theatre, tourist and leisure facilities.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Leave Chichester as it is today.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Make Chichester a large market town serving the local rural population and industries, an administration and service centre with diverse services and a range of shops	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

The answers to the following questions will help us to interpret your answers.

Q22. How long have you lived in Chichester?

Less than 12 months	<input type="text" value="1"/>
More than 12 months but less than five years	<input type="text" value="2"/>
More than five years but less than ten years	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Ten years and over	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Don't know	<input type="text" value="5"/>
I do not live in Chichester. (Please state where you live.)	<input type="text" value="6"/>

Q23. How many adults aged 16 or over live in your household including yourself?

One  Two  Three  Four  Five or more

Q24. How many children under 16 live in your household?

None  One  Two  Three  Four  Five or more

Q25. Do you own your home with a mortgage or outright, or is it rented, or something else?

Own outright	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Buying with the help of a mortgage or loan	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Rented	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Don't know	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Other (please state):	<input type="text" value="5"/>

Q26. In the last 3 months which, if any, of the following have you used to find out about local news and events?

	Local newspapers	1
	Local radio	2
	Neighbours / word of mouth	3
	Local councils' publications	4
	Local councils' websites	5
	None of the above	6
Other (please state)		7

Q27. Please indicate which of these age bands you are in.

Less than 16	1
16-24	2
25-34	3
35-44	4
45-54	5
55-64	6
65+	7

Q28. Are you:

Female  1

Male  2

Q29. What is your home postcode? .....

Q30. What is your employment status? (Please tick one answer only.)

Working full-time (30+ hours per week)	1
Working part-time (8-29 hours per week)	2
In full-time education	3
Retired	4
Unemployed	5
Looking after family/home	6
Don't know	7

Q31. How would you define the ethnic group to which you feel that you belong?

White  1    Black  2    Asian  3    Chinese  4    Mixed  5    Other  6    Don't know  7

If you would like to see a copy of the eventual City plan please fill in either your telephone number or e-mail address: .....

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please now EITHER drop it into one of these collection points: the library, the main Post Office, the District Council office at East Pallant, or the Tourist Information Office in South Street.

OR return it to the person who gave it to you.

OR return it to our data processing agency at Hallam Marketing, FREEPOST RLTS-ACTG-CLBE, Hallam Marketing, Linnet House, 9 Keepers Green, Braiswick. Colchester CO4 5UT.

We need your completed questionnaire **by April 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

## **ANNEXE 2**

### **LIST OF CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN**

#### Interviews with Civic and Residents groups

- ✍ Chichester Society
- ✍ Whyke Residents Association
- ✍ Parklands Residents Association

#### Interviews relating to Sport and Leisure

- ✍ University of Chichester
- ✍ Chichester Athletics and Running Club
- ✍ Chichester Bowling Club
- ✍ Chichester Cormorant Swimming Club
- ✍ Chichester City United Football Club
- ✍ Chichester Rugby Football Club
- ✍ Oaklands Tennis and Squash Club
- ✍ Priory Park Cricket Club

#### Interviews relating to the City's Cultural Life

- ✍ New Park Community and Arts Centre
- ✍ Swanfield Community Centre

#### Interviews relating to young people and special interest groups

- ✍ The Youth Council
- ✍ Fernleigh Youth and Community Centre
- ✍ Bishop Luffa School
- ✍ Chichester High Schools for Boys/Girls
- ✍ Age Concern
- ✍ West Sussex Association for the Disabled
- ✍ Bognor and Chichester Voice
- ✍ Scope West Sussex

#### Interviews with the two main Institutions of Tertiary Education

- ✍ The University of Chichester
- ✍ Chichester College

#### Interviews with those concerned with

- ✍ Tourism
- ✍ Transport, Roads and Car parks
- ✍ Estate Agents, Business and Commerce

**ALL RECORDS HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED WITH THE CITY COUNCIL**

### ANNEXE 3

#### MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PLAN REVISION WORK GROUP 2009 COUNCILLORS

Richard Plowman	City Councillor, Chairman of Planning and Conservation Committee	Chairman, sport leisure and culture and overall vision
Michael Woolley	City Councillor, Mayor	Conservation, heritage and transport planning and the environment
Rob Campling	City Councillor, Deputy Mayor	Tourism, trade, commerce and a vision for all.
Julian Joy	City Councillor and Architect	Sustainability

#### MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PLAN WORKING GROUP 2005

<b>Name</b>	<b>Professional Background</b>	<b>Personal Interests</b>
George Barlow	Chartered Surveyor; Retired Chief Executive of the Peabody Trust and Chair of the London Development Agency	Housing and economic development.
Valerie Briginshaw	Professor of Dance, University of Chichester	Environmental and green issues
Alan Chaplin	District and County Councillor	Housing, community and health
Paula Chatfield	Commercial property investment	Youth and young people; and commercial issues.
Richard Cole	Formerly Director of Planning and Architecture, Commission for New Towns.	Chairman, Parklands RA, Vice Chairman CCAAC
Jill Goulding	Churches Together in Chichester	Inter-church relationships
Martin Innes	Criminologist, University of Surrey	Born in Chichester; still here!
Nick Fox	Director of Planning St Richard's Hospital	Vice Chair Chichester High School for Girls, Trustee Cobnor Activity

		Centre
Suresh Nakra	Chartered Engineer; Portsmouth University; Management and Finance	Aesthetic and environmental improvement in Chichester
Alan Russell (Chair)	Political Economist; Conservationist. FCO, UN, EU. Canterbury City Council	Dresden; Conservation; Disability
Michael Steward	Chartered Surveyor; Estate and Land Management	The public concerns of people in Chichester; Hon. Sec. CRAG and HaSPA
Martin Ward	Chief Exec. Martlet Homes	Business and community interests.

## **COUNCILLORS**

Richard Plowman	City and District Councillor, Mayor of Chichester	Transport, car parking and the future of the City
Brian Skilling	City Councillor, City Council Bailiff	Conservation, planning and the environment
Andrew Smith	City, District and County Councillor	Civic Affairs and Portsmouth Football Club

*replaced with effect June 2005 by*

Edith Pingree	City and District Councillor	Environment, transport, and the history architecture and cultural life of the City
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## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND SECRETARIAL SERVICES**

Thanks to Martlet Homes – for the servicing of meetings and for hospitality provided.

Paul Featherstone

Suzanne Dempsey

Thanks to City Councillor Rob Campling for the photographs used for the front cover.

**ANNEXE 4**

Summersdale Neighbourhood Character Appraisal.