

CHICHESTER



CITY COUNCIL

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Mayor of Chichester : Councillor Peter C Evans

Ref: PCE/meh-006

17 May 2017

Dear Chairman

I am writing to you today to follow up on the successful A27 Community Workshop that was held at the Chichester College at the end of March.

The participants of the workshop agreed that the information drawn together at that meeting would form the basis of a plan for our City and the Villages and Communities around it with regards to the A27 and the surrounding roads.

Representatives of the groups present agreed to go back to their communities and groups to gain ideas that could be included in the master plan. It should be noted that nothing would be deemed to be out of scope or treated as irrelevant.

Many of the ideas that were put forward on the evening were far wider than the A27 and the on-line improvements consulted on. They touched on City access for Cyclists, Pedestrians and Motor vehicles as well as looking at improving the access to and the frequency of Public Transport.

As the Mayor of Chichester City, I would like to invite your group to contribute and feedback your thoughts on the A27 and transport in general in and around Chichester for the future.

We are all aware that the secretary of State for Transport cancelled the original project, on the basis of local concerns over the viability of the proposals presented for consultation.

However, Highways England the government agency for main arterial roads has indicated that the funding for the Chichester A27 improvements is still held in the budget. This gives us the community as a whole an opportunity to speak with one voice over the much-needed improvements to the A27 and its surrounding roads.

We do not yet have a date for the second workshop, but I would welcome your feedback that could help form the basis of the response of the City Council to this issue.

Please find attached the notes from the 22nd March Community Workshop that will provide some background information as to the way forward.

I welcome all comments and please remember that nothing is out of scope in this exercise.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Peter Evans
The Mayor of Chichester

A27 Community Workshop - Chichester College - 22nd March 2017

Louise Goldsmith welcomed everyone to the workshop and thanked Shelagh Legrave (Principal, Chichester College) for use of the College venue. She extended thanks to Ash Pal for agreeing to facilitate and reminded the group that at the meeting that took place on 5th March that a request was made for an independent facilitator. Although Ash represents Parklands Residents Association (PRA), he is a professional facilitator and was pleased to offer his services in order to set the scene for this important community event.

Ash went on to introduce what the guiding principles might look like for the evening and confirmed that he was not here in his PRA capacity. He reminded the group that we are all responsible for creating a new plan and asked if everyone was happy with what was being proposed for the session. He expressed how impressed he was at the speed in which WSCC had created a forum for the community to come together and was pleased to see so many people in the room. He informed the group that there were two 'parking lots' in the room for ideas / comments outside the scope of the evening's discussion to be captured and followed up. He opened up by asking everyone how long they had lived in Chichester for by way of a show of hands, starting at 50 years, 40 years, 30 years, 20 years, and less than 20 years. It was clear from the question that the group collectively had a lot of experience to share which would be of great benefit in achieving a collective outcome.

The first exercise focussed on guiding principles for coming together as a community and each table was asked to discuss and list their chosen top three, and then invited to feed back to the whole group. Key themes from the table discussions are highlighted below. The ones listed had more than one comment from the whole group. A full list of all responses is available on request.

- Be open minded and encourage creative/ innovative thinking
- Consider all perspectives/ all views should be taken into account/ keep calm and respect others
- Take decisions informed on solid evidence
- Holistic approach/ integrated transport strategy/plan
- Conversation should be open, honest and transparent
- Long term view/ focus on the long term
- Work in the best interests of Chichester as a whole/ A united approach
- Consider the impact on the surrounding areas
- Be prepared to compromise
- Agree to disagree/Understand that other may have a different point of view
- Develop a clear focus/ aim
- We must take collective responsibility

The second exercise focussed on what do we want to achieve. Key themes from the table discussions are highlighted below. The ones listed had more than one comment from the group. A full list of responses is available on request.

- Consensus on the way forward

- Heal wounds and unite together
- A scheme that gets Gov/ HE approval
- Participation from all stakeholders including landowners and businesses
- Clarity of scope/ aims
- Minimise disruption from building phase
- Reliable journey times and free flowing traffic
- Environmentally friendly solution that increases air quality
- A solution that works for Chi and surrounding areas
- Funding or obtain large investment
- A solution that separates through traffic from local traffic
- Take a long term approach/ view
- Develop a viable solution that has achievable aims
- To develop and take forward a mix of short term and long term solutions
- Take a holistic approach

The next exercise focussed on aspirations and how you would know if they had been achieved. Key themes from the table discussions are highlighted below. The ones listed had more than one comment from the group. A full list of responses is available on request.

A scheme that achieves consensus

- Long term solution that is future proof
- Improved air quality
- Transparent process with is inclusive
- Shorter journey times
- Vibrant economy/ attract high quality jobs
- Improved quality of life
- Free slower roads no bottles necks
- A practical solution that is deliverable and enhances the quality of life and economy for Chi and surrounding areas/residents.

The final exercise focussed on what could be listed as out of scope. Key themes from the table discussions are highlighted below. The ones listed had more than one comment from the group. A full list of responses is available on request.

- Nothing should be out of scope
- Don't cut off/isolate communities

Ash concluded the exercises and then addressed the whole room, thanking them for their input and then asked for any pledges of support or feedback on particular areas of interest be fed back via the pledge boxes, or via email at buildabettera27@westsussex.gov.uk

A suggestion was made to engage with students, in order to feed in to the project. Shelagh confirmed she'd be more than happy to support the suggestion and ask Chichester College students for their views. She also confirmed she would liaise with the University College Chichester for them to do the same.

There was a request for an online space to be created in order for continual momentum and discussion between workshops. This would also enable people to comment who may not be able to attend meetings. It would also be useful to post details of community based events. Action: WSCC to lead and set up web page.

When will the next workshop take place? - Fishbourne PC confirmed that they would be running an event on the evening of 21st April at the Fishbourne Centre and that they welcomed attendance from the wider community. Other groups in the community were encouraged to hold their own events where possible and Louise confirmed that WSCC would support by way of facilitation packs, maps etc. All requests to come in via buildabettera27@westsussex.gov.uk

In terms of a date for the next core group workshop, it was discussed and agreed that this would take place in Mid-May. WSCC secretariat to advise on date and venue asap.

It was agreed that in between each of the core group workshops, communities would host their own events and gather feedback from their wider community residents and then bring this back to future workshops.

At the meeting on 6th March and 22nd March the following was discussed and agreed;

- We will meet again mid-May
- WSCC will lead on the secretariat

£100k funding has been allocated to this project from WSCC. £15k has also been allocated by CDC

- Confirmed with the group that WSCC have permission to look outside the box when considering consultants
- Would anticipate a 6-9 month timescale for a proposed plan to be ready
- WSCC will set up a web page - as per above comment

WSCC will provide facilitation support for community led events

Ash then checked with all in attendance what the feeling was in the room in conclusion. There was a consensus of agreement that the session had been pitched correctly.

The session then closed.