

Neighbourhood Plan sub group: Employment, Business, Tourism, IT Communications

Notes of meeting held on 10th October 2017

Present: Sue Higham and Andy Hohne

Objective

Following the email received from Peter Dye requesting assistance for the Place Appraisal, the objective of this meeting was to draft the recommendations, risks, challenges, opportunities and options / way forward relating to our sub group that could be included within the Place Appraisal.

Key discussion points

Shop:

Recommendations

- To set up a community shop to incorporate a tea shop and be an outlet for selling locally sourced produce and arts & crafts.
- It is unlikely that such a shop will be commercially viable but could be run by local volunteers.

Risks

- There could be insufficient volunteer support to keep such a shop open and therefore viable.

Challenges

- A location would be required, which is currently not obvious.
- Finding volunteers to consistently manage and run the shop.

Opportunities

- A shop could be a further social outlet for the village as well as providing a channel for local arts & crafts and produce and attract more tourists.

Options / Way forward

- Canvass support for a shop from the community and assess whether there is sufficient appetite for volunteer support for the running and management of the shop.
- Identify a location for a shop.
- Source local suppliers.

Business:

Recommendations

- To increase the number of “cottage style” businesses in the village to support an increase in local employment.

Risks

- Dependant on the type of business that is attracted, this could result in a small increase in motor traffic (from employees, customers and deliveries) and therefore general noise.
- This could also result in an increase in parking required for the additional staff, customers and deliveries.

Challenges

- To attract the right type of cottage business.
- To find locations to house the additional businesses, which is currently not obvious.

Opportunities

- More businesses and therefore employment opportunities may attract a younger population to the village.
- More businesses will likely attract more visitors to the village which will help support the local amenities, for example the pub / proposed shop.

Options / Way forward

- Canvass support from the community for attracting additional businesses.
- Identify locations for the additional businesses.

Tourism:

Recommendations

- To encourage more tourism by improving the facilities in the area, for example by allowing more campsites and advertising Sutton Poynz more, both locally and nationally.

Risks

- More tourism is likely to result in an increase in motor traffic, with the resultant requirement for parking.
- More tourism could result in an increase in noise, litter and uncleared dog mess.

Challenges

- Obtaining the planning consent required for additional facilities, for example a greater number or longer running campsites.
- To identify locations for the likely increase in parking required.

Opportunities

- More tourism will help further support the local amenities, for example the pub / proposed shop.

Options / Way forward

- Canvass support from the community for more tourism.
- Identify locations for the likely additional parking required.
- Approach local landowners to assess their appetite for the increased use of their land.

Communications:

Since the first consultation, broadband and mobile communications seem to have improved, with for example many areas of the village now getting 4G. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan cannot influence suppliers' strategies, it would be useful to accumulate "real world" details of coverage.

There is also an appetite to maintain the local traditional forms of communication.

Next steps

The above are initial drafts and will be sent to the Steering Group for discussion.