

WMPC-NP-2019.01.02-Summary of Children's Comments

Consultation with Children in Wickham Market

In regard to the Neighbourhood Plan, where our “Communities Come First,” several of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held their first consultation with the 16 children in Year 6 attending the Wickham Market Primary School. There was an open discussion where children discussed their ideas for new building in Wickham Market, and for meeting the welfare needs of the local people, now and into the next c.20 years. The following shows the comments from these children.

Housing Generally

Most children did not want any new developments in Wickham Market, and 10 children thought this was a priority. Various solutions were discussed but the children's views held that if building had to happen, they would prefer no building to the south west of the village (indicated on the map e.g. land adjacent to Thong Hall Road and Dallinghoo Road). Some children understood there were already recommendations that two areas might be built on. Most were environmentally aware and stressed their concerns about not building on the fields, which gave them pleasure in use and sight, and more importantly provided food. They did not want more development where there was not enough room for two cars to pass, and in particular, no development that increased the traffic around their school. The children also stressed the importance of safe passage to school.

The Old School House.

If this land was built on, the old school house should be protected, (5 children) not demolished. Little else was said about this land as it is directly across from other housing and has had good access to the dual carriageway (A12). They did not want development here causing problems for their use of land adjacent to the village hall.

Simon's Cross

Initially the children were against building here, but when challenged to think about where new houses could be built, a large group agreed that, “if there has to be housing” then there were some positives building here. They felt more housing would enable improvements to the park which was very important. Many wanted to protect the allotments and after explanation of the current suggestions with one group of 6 children, they all agreed it is suitable for building but only if: the park is improved; current residents are protected from disruption caused by contractors; better equipment is provided at Simon's Cross and Village parks, especially age appropriate for 10-18 year olds.

Pub, Hotels, High School

More than 5 children stated that the Pub should be rebuilt. They also questioned its lack of use and commented that the scaffolding has been there too long. Lack of accommodation for visitors was raised and a/more hotel/s recommended as a solution. Also suggested was for a secondary school in the village.

Parking; Community Safety; Traffic Management

The children said, “we need safer roads” and “you should not be able to park on the road.” They said safe places were needed to cross the road (4 children) More parking was needed

especially around the Co-op (village hall) (6 children) and the High Street, as although it has two lanes, parking reduces this to 1 lane.

Parks and Green Spaces; Pump Track and Social Areas.

They said, “there is lots to do in Wickham Market - parks, clubs, shops” but they needed either updating or increasing as follows. Overall the children said that we need:

- to increase the size and number of parks and play areas for children, especially if we build more houses and increase the number of children who live in Wickham Market. Upgrade and provide new age appropriate equipment at both parks. This needs to be suitable for all ages, “the swings are awful” on the village park, “the zip wire is too young” (6 children) Replace the football posts and goal on the field (2 children) Ensure that any housing built at Simon’s Cross enhances and not detracts from current green spaces provision. Responding to the idea of a Pump Track (5 children) said “it might be good but 18 year olds would damage it and use it at night”.
- to extend the cinema club for primary/young teens and more movies for 10 year olds. (1 child) Increase places and times at the youth club (5 children)
- to establish a running club (3 children); rugby club (1 child) dodgeball club (1 child) and go kart racing (1 child) A coding club was suggested, (3 children) or other IT club.
- to advocate more car boot sales (4 children) A mobile kiosk serving food and drinks; (ice creams and burgers) (3 children) A plea for a McDonalds, however, the children felt it very unlikely. A water fountain, discussed as group the problems of keeping it clean and safe, (drawings provided to solve these issues.)

The children were concerned about protecting their “stuff” from being spoilt or taken by local youth (18 year olds). To resolve this, a metal shed in parks was suggested, or space in the village hall for renting/borrowing to keep play equipment.