

A STRATEGY FOR WYMONDHAM'S FUTURE 2008 – 2013

Dear Resident

The Wymondham Town Council and the Wymondham Community Partnership would like to thank you for completing our recent questionnaire entitled **Wymondham's Future**. We were very encouraged by what you had to say and, after careful analysis of the data, feel that we have an understanding of your priorities and aspirations for our town. It is our aim to work closely with other organisations and community groups over the next 5 years in order to maintain what is best in Wymondham and seek improvements where identified.



Cllr Len Elston

Mayor

Wymondham Town Council



Ann Roberts

Chair

Wymondham Community Partnership

WYMONDHAM
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP
putting wymondham first



Wymondham's Future

The 2007 public consultation exercise

The top priority was the desire to keep Wymondham as a market town and protect its historical heritage.

Other key priorities emerging from the survey for the future development of Wymondham:

- further major development should be resisted, but, if this did happen, it should be as a series of small scale developments;
- local shops were supported, but additional shopping with more variety in shopping, was needed, including an additional major supermarket;
- access to housing was a priority, especially for the young, and suitable homes should be made available for elderly and disabled people;
- adequate services and infrastructure should be provided ahead of further expansion;
- small scale development to support employment opportunities was to be encouraged;
- the loss of the local job centre was viewed as a barrier to employment;
- there was a demand for out-of-hours medical services.

Most people identified the natural environment and access to the countryside as major benefits of living in Wymondham

The survey revealed the need for additional environmental improvements, which included:

- protection of the river valley and surrounding countryside as high priority;
- protection of the natural environment, including wildlife, birds and all flora/fauna;
- greater access to the countryside through additional paths and signage;
- additional parks and seating areas;
- more recycling;
- energy efficient street lighting;
- better maintenance of public areas to include the removal of dog mess and litter.

A strong community spirit was vitally important to local residents.

In addition, the survey revealed that:

- despite low crime levels in the town, vandalism and antisocial behaviour were of concern;
- the fear of crime and intimidation of the elderly was an issue for concern;
- more out-of-school activities were needed;
- there was a need for vibrant community facilities for the young and elderly;
- although information about the town's activities was deemed adequate, more could be achieved through the town's website;
- there was a demand for more adult education opportunities.

Thoughtless and inadequate parking was a major issue, and there was a call for better public transport, especially linking residential and employment areas.

The survey also identified:

- concern over illegal and thoughtless parking in Market Street and around schools;
- the need for more dedicated parking areas including additional spaces for disabled drivers;
- the need for improved access and facilities for disabled people in general, to include the dropping of kerbs;
- the need for better information about public transport services; timetables and routes;
- the problem of unnecessary through traffic in the town centre and obstruction from unloading lorries.

The Vision For Wymondham's Future

From the survey results, it was clear that Wymondham has an exciting and prosperous future, especially if all the organisations serving the town work together and share the common vision of:

***“Wymondham
– a forward
looking
market town
recognising
the need for
sustainable
growth whilst
retaining a
strong sense
of its own
history.”***

Protecting Wymondham's cultural and historic heritage and ensuring that both the town's growth and economy progress in a controlled manner

Supporting a vibrant local community where all age groups can develop and enjoy the quality of life that Wymondham can offer

Improving access to the surrounding countryside and protecting the town's open and natural spaces

Seeking ways of improving public transport and traffic management

How will the Vision be made to work?

Wymondham Town Council will co-ordinate activities both with other public and private sector organisations and with the voluntary and community groups located in the area. The overall aim is to secure a sustainable future for the town, with all projects working towards achieving the guiding principles set out above and providing value for money. Efforts will be made to seek additional funding in order to help deliver the main objectives. Progress will be monitored regularly and reported on the Town websites or circulated in the 'About Wymondham' newsletter. The overall plan will also be reviewed annually and adjusted where necessary.

How can we improve things over the next 5 years?

A 5-year programme of actions and projects will now be developed that will:

Protect Wymondham's cultural and historic heritage and ensure that the town's growth and progress is controlled by:

- considering carefully the effects of all development proposals;
- encouraging more diverse shopping in the town centre;
- ensuring that adequate services and infrastructures are in place ahead of any large scale development;
- securing additional housing through small scale development;
- ensuring that affordable and special needs homes are a priority;
- promoting a town trail linking heritage sites and encouraging tourism.



Support a vibrant local community where all age groups can develop and enjoy the quality of life Wymondham can offer by:

- supporting the local police and community protection;
- improving community facilities (centres) for community groups;
- seeking a wider range of educational and recreational courses at the learning centre;
- seeking new funding to widen provision for all community groups;
- approaching the NHS Norfolk for additional medical services;
- organising a half yearly litter pick and campaigning to eradicate vandalism and graffiti.



Improve access to the surrounding countryside and protect the town's open spaces by:

- protecting the entire Tiffey Valley and Bays River valley and ensuring a 20m green strip on each bank of the river;
- providing additional footpaths, seating and signage;
- maintaining a recycling centre close to the town and ensuring that additional facilities are available at suitable sites;
- supporting additional parks and natural open spaces;
- creating a more diverse and supported role for the volunteer environmental wardens.



Seek ways of improving public transport and traffic management by:

- encouraging the instigation of additional street wardens to enforce traffic management and reduce illegal parking;
- identifying new land for additional off-street parking;
- lobbying Norfolk County Council and local bus companies for the introduction of integrated bus services;
- establishing new footpaths and cycle ways connecting with local town and villages;
- maintaining disabled access to premises and repairing dropped kerbs to assist disabled people.



Summary

In 2006, the town council and the community partnership agreed to establish a clear view of what people wanted for the approaching period of major change. Working together, they undertook the 2007 Community Survey entitled "Wymondham's Future" to which over 1220 people contributed by completing and returning questionnaires. Responses to the 46 questions clearly identified the main priorities of the local community to be;

- Protection of the heritage and character of this special market town;
- Improvement and diversification of shopping opportunities;
- Resistance to large scale development, but, if this has to happen, ensuring that facilities are provided ahead of expansion;
- Encouragement of recycling, waste reduction and energy efficiency;
- Protection of the river valleys, countryside and wildlife habitats;
- Improvement of public transport, cycle ways and footpaths;
- Improvement of community facilities for the young and elderly;
- Reduction of illegal parking and encouragement of more parking provision;
- Reduction in anti social behaviour, theft and the fear of crime;
- Encouragement of civic pride in the town with more flowers, plants, Christmas lights, street cleaning and community activities;

These priorities are reflected in the full strategy and the following vision for Wymondham's future.

WYMONDHAM

A forward looking market town recognising the need for sustainable growth whilst retaining a strong sense of its own history

i For further Information

The full Strategic Plan for Wymondham's Future and a detailed analysis of the survey results are available at the Wymondham Town Council Office, on line at

<http://wymondhamtc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk> or to view at the library.

Community events are frequently advertised in the local papers and on the community website **www.wymondhamonline.co.uk**

Details of community groups, clubs and organisations are held at the Library and Town Council offices.