



Haverhill Area Working Party 9 June 2011

Haverhill Vision 2031: Issues consultation summary

Summary

1. On 13 January 2011, the Haverhill Area Working Party noted a narrative item on the process for preparing the Haverhill Vision 2031 document and asked for suggestions for engaging local people in the process (Minute 47 refers).
2. The initial public engagement events took place between 1 February and 30 April 2011. A wide variety of consultation methods were used that conformed to the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement for the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF).
3. The local community and stakeholders were invited to submit their views on the issues in Haverhill and their vision for the future of the town. In addition, the consultants promoting the strategic growth area to the north east of the town engaged the public and statutory undertakers on the issues for consideration in the future development of the area.
4. A summary of the events which took place during the consultation period is attached for information as Appendix A to the report. Comments received during the consultation period (except the consultant's report of consultation which is available on the Council's website) is attached to this report as Appendix B and the Working Party is asked to note the comments.
5. The Working Party is asked to **NOTE** the comments arising from the consultation.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Working Party of the outcomes of the Haverhill Vision 2031 issues consultation.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2005, the Council prepared a vision document for the whole of St Edmundsbury called Vision 2025. It was designed to give a clear and shared vision of *'how we see the beautiful and successful area of St Edmundsbury in 20 years' time'*. It was prepared after talking to a range of partner organisations and the local community to identify the main challenges that needed dealing with by 2025. Vision 2025 now

needs looking at again to see what has changed and to extend the period that it covers. The Haverhill Vision 2031 will do this.

- 2.2 Vision 2031 is a new project to create a community-led shared vision for each part of the Borough for the next 20 years. It considers the whole of each area and what makes it function, as well as what new development will be needed to meet the future needs. This wide ranging exercise will take over a year to complete and covers all the service issues that need to be addressed by 2031. The first step in the process was to consult the community on issues and what their vision is for their area.
- 2.3 On 13 January 2011, the Haverhill Area Working Party noted the narrative on the process for preparing the Haverhill Vision 2031 document. On 18 January 2011, the Sustainable Development Working Party recommended to the Cabinet that the Issues consultation on Haverhill Vision 2031 should commence (Sustainable Development Working Party Minute 50 refers). This recommendation was endorsed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 19 January 2011 (Cabinet Minute 104 refers) and consultation took place between 1 February and 30 April 2011.
- 2.4 The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement for the preparation of the Local Development Framework as adopted by the Council on 26 February 2008 following examination by a government Planning Inspector.

3. Issues Consultation Events

- 3.1 Set out below is a summary of the advertising and publicity which has taken place for the Haverhill Vision 2031 issues consultation:-
 - (a) launch event at the Haverhill Arts Centre on 1 February 2011, which was followed by a number of consultation drop in events across the town, as listed in Appendix A, including a Vision 2031 roadshow in Haverhill market on 15 April 2011;
 - (b) dedicated website which contains links to background information and fact sheets by town area and theme;
 - (c) freepost postcards distributed across the town, at consultation events and via the dedicated website to allow people to highlight the big issues in the town and their vision for Haverhill in 2031;
 - (d) freepost 'fact finding' questionnaires distributed across the town, at consultation events, and via the dedicated website to gather information on how people use and live in the town;
 - (e) LDF newsletter advertising all consultations sent by email to 1700 people/organisations;
 - (f) letter to statutory consultees informing of consultation dates in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement;

- (g) details of all events given to Haverhill Town Council for distribution in local newsletters/magazines where possible;
- (h) advertising of consultation drop-in events in the Members' Bulletin (27 January and 11 February 2011);
- (i) 'Theme of the Week' updates on the St Edmundsbury Twitter site to stimulate interest and link through to the Vision 2031 websites;
- (j) advertising of events in local newspapers;
- (k) posters advertising drop-in events erected in strategic locations around the town;
- (l) packs of questionnaires, postcards and a poster provided at each Polling Station on election day for display; and
- (m) engagement with Samuel Ward Academy.

4. Consultation results

- 4.1 Whilst consultation postcards and questionnaires are still being submitted as a result of the publicity on the Election Day, to date a total of 95 freepost postcard responses have been received in relation to the consultation. Eight of these were received via the Council's dedicated website. A summary of the responses received, along with the feedback received at the launch event on 1 February 2011, is attached at Appendix B.
- 4.2 A total of 75 'fact finding' questionnaires have been received in response to the consultation. 64 were received by post and 11 were received online via the website. These will be analysed over the next few weeks and the information used to assist us in the provision of services during the next stage of the Vision 2031 project.

5. Strategic Growth Area consultation

- 5.1 The consultant promoting the strategic growth area at north east Haverhill was invited by the Council to set up and run drop-in events and workshops to consult neighbouring communities on potential issues which would effect the future development of the site. To ensure that the requirements of the Statement of Community Involvement were met, the consultant was asked to undertake a variety of methods to consult in and around the growth areas. These methods were principally to:-
 - (a) provide the Council with a Consultation Plan for approval prior to the commencement of the consultation;
 - (b) undertake public exhibitions in the town and in any nearby villages (Listed in Appendix A) presenting baseline information which had been agreed with the Council;

- (c) using a database provided by the Council to do a direct mail shot to homes most likely to be affected by the proposals (mail shot covered in excess of 1000 homes);
 - (d) undertake local advertising as appropriate;
 - (e) put up posters and site notices advertising the drop in sessions and workshops; and
 - (f) run a workshop to tease out and develop issues raised at the exhibitions.
- 5.2 A consultation summary has been provided by the consultant promoting the site, which sets out in detail the methods of consultation used and summarises the comments received from the local communities. Due to the size of this summary it has not been attached to this report. Officers will summarise the conclusions from the consultant led consultation in a presentation to the Working Party. In addition, the consultation summary will be made available by early June 2011 on the Council's Haverhill Vision 2031 website:
<http://www.haverhillvision.org.uk/planning.html>
- 5.3 Using the results of the consultation the consultants are now working with the Council to produce draft Concept Statements for the site which will identify site boundaries, the location of major roads, local facilities and identify where the housing will be located. These Concept Statements will sit within the next draft of the Vision 2031 document which will be subject to further public consultation in late summer.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 Officers are currently working up the draft document for consideration by the Working Party for a period of public consultation in late summer 2011, taking into consideration the comments received in relation to this issues consultation. Officers will make a presentation to the Working Party outlining the process, timeline and the next steps of the project.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 The Working Party is requested to **NOTE** the outcomes from the Haverhill Vision 2031 issues consultation, as detailed in Appendix B to Report C15.

For further information, please contact:-

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Haverhill Vision 2031 events

Council run events

Date/Time	Venue	Approximate number of attendees
Tuesday 1 February	Haverhill Arts Centre, Vision launch event	44 attendees
Saturday 12 February 10am-4pm	LEAP Centre, High Street, Haverhill	20 attendees
Monday 7 March 4-7pm	Haverhill Leisure Centre Studio	20 attendees
Thursday 10 March 4-7pm	The New Croft, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill	20 attendees
Friday 15 April All Day	Haverhill Market	In excess of 163 attendees

Haverhill developer run growth area consultation events

North East Haverhill drop in sessions

Friday 11 February Samuel Ward Academy 4pm to 7pm

Saturday 26 February Kedington Community Centre 10am to 1pm

New Growth Area Workshop

Saturday 5 March Samuel Ward Academy

**Haverhill Issues
Vision 2031 Launch feedback: 1 February 2011**

Introduction

Initial feedback was obtained from delegates at the Haverhill Vision 2031 launch event at the Haverhill Arts Centre on 1 February 2011. Invited delegates included statutory providers, local businesses and those actively involved in the community.

Issues raised have been summarised by theme as follows:

The number of people who agreed/disagreed with each issue is indicated in brackets after each sentence and these issues have been ordered from most popular to least popular.

Theme – Sustainability and Climate Change

Current Issues

- Generation of own local electricity (1 agrees)
- Keep residents informed about waste recycling (1 agrees)
- Explore bio digestion of sewage
- Encourage neighbourhood composting
- Need to upgrade existing sewerage and drainage system
- Need local strategies for waste recovery
- Improve civic amenity facilities in Haverhill for recycling

Future Issues

- Plan for when the electricity supply can't cope with demand (1 agrees)
- Ensure travel to work miles minimised by linking housing supply to employment growth
- New development to incorporate highest levels of energy and water savings. Houses built to last
- Decentralised waste management for infrastructure
- Fully operated, funded and supported community transport
- Neighbourhood energy generation
- Sustainable transport strategies

Theme – Jobs

Current Issues

- Proper careers advice for students
- Need proper advice and guidance for people not in full time education or employment (NEETs)
- Low average wages
- Lack of white collar opportunities

Future Issues

- Need to encourage new industries e.g. bioscience and high tech
- Need to think ahead now to what type of industries we should be encouraging in Haverhill
- Need space for small businesses to grow
- Further develop Haverhill Enterprise Park
- Raise profile of business and economic services
- Need to encourage apprenticeships for students

Theme – Travel

Current Issues

- Need pedestrianisation now on high street
- Resolve road access issues to Chantry Mills
- A1307 needs improving now
- Speed up delivery of the northern relief road
- Improve road maintenance – pot holes/damage to vehicles a problem
- Improve evening bus routes for students at West Suffolk College
- Improve transport for the young and access/transport from rural areas to town

Future Issues

- Guided bus/tram service from Haverhill to Cambridge on A1307
- Three counties transport agencies to work together (Cambs/Suffolk/Essex)
- Improve public transport – consider needs of an ageing population and make it more affordable
- New developments to help reduce car dependence
- Reduce on street parking
- Recognise the needs of commuters – they will always exist

Theme – Homes and Community

Current Issues

- No bedsits
- Minimum room sizes
- Family homes big enough for families

Future Issues

- More larger homes
- Highest standards in sustainable construction
- Have unique and individual homes
- Need ecumenical church for the new area of growth
- New housing incorporates high quality natural green space
- Need to increased supported housing

Theme – Education and Skills

Current Issues

- Local Education for Special Needs
- Encourage employers to support students
- Employability Skills
- Supporting work experience

Future Issues

- Fees
- Libraries incorporated into schools
- Transport and access to education and jobs
- Clare free school isn't necessary

Theme – Historic and Natural Environment

Current Issues

- Museum for Haverhill
- Maintain connections between green spaces

Future Issues

- Develop Haverhill in bloom
- Green Space Diversity

Theme – Crime and Safety

Current Issues

- Alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour (2 agree)
- Lack of parents knowing where their children are (1 agrees)
- Youth anti-social behaviour (1 agrees)
- Vandalism – theft of copper/lead from electricity sites – Safety! (1 agrees)
- All youths are perceived as criminals: -Clothing - Looks – Actions (1 agrees)
- Growing night-time economy
- Community buy-in to SNT
- Man police station 24/7 now
- Lack of respect for police
- Retail crime
- Community Police Officers – excellent job. More needed please
- Reduced care services may leave people vulnerable to crime
- Fear of crime mainly at night (early closure)
- I will believe in the Big Society when people stop dropping litter (and/or pick it up outside their houses)

Future Issues

- Social isolation due to increased use of facebook etc – removal from reality
- Cultural shift from binge drinking
- Create an environment people delight in, there will be community buy-in and pride
- Increase of vulnerable people living independently in community
- Facilities to keep offenders off the street and into the community
- Community 'buy-in' + responsibility to dealing with crime and community safety
- Training – ensure everyone working together, giving same messages in a positive way
- 'Cultural' challenge to alcohol related crime and disorder
- Respect matters – more care about how you treat others
- Greater police presence and get to know the resident
- Use technology to do beat officer's shift reports
- Need to build stronger communities – take more pride/consideration etc

Theme – Infrastructure and Services

Current Issues

- Persuade Anglian Water to move the sewage works
- Improve St Mary's Churchyard
- Facilities to reflect changing needs (e.g. older population) of the community

Future Issues

- Special needs units in schools (1 agrees)
- Quadruple the size of the town centre (1 agrees)
- Facilities/services and infrastructure based on the community as a whole
- Uncertain impact of 'low carbon' on electricity use e.g. heat pumps electric cells
- Q. In respect of changes to NHS Primary Care – how will this change future plans?
- Increased facilities for older people and people with disabilities

Theme – Health

Current Issues

Expand walk-in health centre (2 agree)

Mental health care/issues (1 agrees)

Address teenage pregnancy and self esteem (1 agrees)

Help for autistic children and adults (1 agrees)

Fuel poverty/starvation – impact on the elderly/vulnerable

Benefits levels and impact on health and well being of people and their carers (including mental health)

Walk-in centre very good

Supporting people to help themselves – change in values/capacity of services

Community based activity (not separate provision for different groups)

Future Issues

Dementia will be a problem

Dementia issues

Healthy living centre GP – clinics – voluntary sector – schools fitness

More support for carers – particularly of the elderly

Importance of voluntary organisations for carers

Increasingly elderly population in rural areas – getting services out and consistency of context

The role of internet as source of information

Supporting a range of activities. Keep people active

Theme – Leisure and Recreation

Current Issues

2012 Olympic Games (1 agrees)

Improve accessibility to physical activity for people that need it

Less paperwork

School Sports Partnerships need to be supported

Better control of dogs

Disciplined sports

-encouraging youth

-investments into current clubs

Youth clubs via sport led by students

Maintain funding for Arts Centre and seek ways to increase it

More football pitches at a lower hire cost

Support voluntary arts sector – not necessarily funding, but skills and resources

Consider wider aspects of leisure and cultural activity.

Keep Suffolk Sports for the children – they desperately need the exercise

Maintain funding for Arts Centre – our only centre for arts events

Play strategy

Libraries are not just for books, they are the heartbeat of the community

Retain current levels of high quality green space within town e.g. 'disused' railway corridor and associated spaces

Don't need a 'free' school with 7 million to spend.

Fat children die young – Keep Suffolk Sports.

Future Issues

2012 Olympic Games (3 agree)

Support organisations in funding applications (3 agree)

Create leisure/recreation facilities that encourage stronger communities (2 agree)

More restaurants, housing & leisure to bring businesses into the town which we could invest in (2 agree)

Maximise accessibility to rural hinterland – cycle/pedestrian links (1 agrees)

Railway line like RH&DR (Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway) between Sturmer and West Town Park via East Town Park (1 agrees)

Development of sports partnership to support Schools Sports Partnership

Community projects, sports, library, schools, need to be cared for in the town

Maintaining funding

Youth running club would be good

Get co-ordinated with West Suffolk College to develop sports for children

Obesity is a real problem. Cutting sport is a crime against the children who need exercise

What to provide for the youth of Haverhill in the future

More older people who have always exercised and look for tailored services

Promote PCT involvement with school and sport to create joined up approach

Suffolk Sport Schools: Please keep this wonderful organisation running. It does so much for so many children

More general leisure land for community use

Ensure that there are enough facilities for the population growth in Haverhill

Transport for young people to leisure/recreation activities

High quality greenspace needs to be provided:

- Near to homes –walking distance
- Larger 'country park' that is easily accessible

Diversionary activities for young people

'Virtual' libraries

Theme – Other issues

Current Issues

- Much larger retail space needed
- burial grounds needed
- Desire for a conference site on the old project site

Future Issues

- Making space for retail
- Research park
- Youth club provision and funding

Conclusion

It is apparent that a wide range of issues for Haverhill have been identified by delegates over the next 20 years. These issues, alongside those received during the public consultation, will be used to develop a range of options which will be consulted on for the way Haverhill will be developed in the future.

Haverhill 'Issues' Vision 2031 public consultation feedback

Introduction

St Edmundsbury Borough Council have been consulting people on what they feel the main issues facing Haverhill are over the next 20 years as part of the Haverhill Vision 2031 exercise. These have been collected in the format of 'postcards' asking for peoples top three issues. In total, 95 postcards have been received to date and the issues raised have been summarised by theme as follows:

The number of people who raised each issue is indicated in brackets after each sentence and issues have been ordered from most common to least common.

Homes and Communities

- There are not enough homes or affordable housing (4)
- Need sheltered homes especially for the elderly (3)
- Need executive homes (2)
- There is a need for greater community spirit (1)
- Need mixed housing developments (1)
- Too many homes being built (1)
- Inappropriate development along the ring road (1)

Jobs & Economy

- High level of unemployment and people claiming benefits (5)
- High level of youth unemployment and need for more jobs for younger generation (4)
- There is a lack of local employment opportunities (3)
- There is not enough industry or support for smaller businesses and a need for encouragement of inward investment (3)
- Need to develop high-tech jobs and jobs for skilled/qualified people (2)

Travel

- Poor transport links into and around town and to Cambridge worsening (12)
- Traffic congestion particularly on A1307 (5)
- Poor rail services/links (4)
- Need free or cheap parking (4)
- Need to pedestrianise the High Street (3)
- Poor bus service (2)
- Road parking issues on Crowland Road, need more yellow lines (1)
- Uneven pavements (1)

Sustainability and Climate Change

- Growing and ageing population (7)
- Need sustainable development (1)
- Over-development leading to water runoff (1)

Crime and Community Safety

- High crime rate and vandalism to cars (3)
- Anti-social behaviour (2)
- Prejudice (1)
- Drug addicts hanging around (1)
- More police needed e.g. to deal with shoplifting (1)

Infrastructure and Services

- Not enough shops or variety of shops due to closures, need to attract new retail and big name shops and develop shopping centre (31)
- Need improved public services/facilities to prevent need to travel out of town (8)
- Too many supermarkets having adverse effect on others and the market (4)
- Need better road links to M11/Cambridge/the coast (4)
- Shortage of care homes for elderly or young (2)
- Need foreign facilities for non-English speakers (1)
- Need rural broadband (1)
- Need public toilets (1)

Leisure and Recreation

- Lack of facilities for teenagers (7)
- Lack of facilities and playgrounds for families and young people (4)
- Lack of hobbies and things to do and poor variety of entertainment (2)
- There is a lack of sports facilities (1)
- Need continued development of Arts Centre (1)

Health

- Too many unhealthy take-away shops (3)
- No x-ray facilities (at Crown HC) (2)
- Poor preventive health services (1)

Education and Skills

- Not enough discipline in schools (1)

Historic and Natural Environment

- Poor image/reputation of the town and need to overcome and develop the High Street (15)
- Lack of green spaces/natural environments, loss of/destruction of green spaces and lack of concern (6)
- Need to protect Haverhill Country Walks and extend East Town Park (5)
- More parkland in line with housing to create pleasant environment (4)

Conclusion

It is apparent that a wide range of issues for Haverhill have been identified by local residents over the next 20 years. These issues will be used to develop a range of options which will be consulted on for the way Haverhill will be developed in the future.