

Workshop Notes – Charnwood Youth Forum Conference

15th October 2008, Loughborough Town Hall

As part of the Core Strategy Further Consultation, planning officers attended the Charnwood Youth Forum Annual Conference. The Youth Forum agreed to undertake a workshop on planning for the future of Charnwood Borough as part of the conference.

The workshop included the opportunity to vote on a number of questions individually and then as small groups consider what would be needed to support a new large scale development.

Results of Voting Exercise

The first part of the event involved a number of voting exercises, the results of which are set out below.

Members of the Youth Council were given a voting slip with two questions and the results of the vote are shown below.

Question 1

Heating and providing power for homes produces green house gases which, when released into the atmosphere, can play a part in climate change. Building homes that are more environmentally friendly and release no greenhouse gases can be a lot more expensive.

Would you be willing to pay more for a new house if it was more environmentally friendly?

Answers	Vote	Comments
Yes	57	Because it will benefit everyone in the long term; Because it would pay off in time; It would be worth it as you might not have to spend much on electricity and gas; It would help the environment; Depends on how much more it costs; Dependant on costs; If it didn't put too much on my mortgage.
No	19	Depends how and where it is built.

Don't Know	Depends how much and how big the house was!
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Question 2

Wind turbines can provide environmentally friendly electricity. They can be very large and can be seen from a long distance. Some people do not like the look of wind turbines and think they can be a blot on the landscape.

Do you agree that there should be more large wind turbines?

Answers	Vote	Comments
Yes	64	Depending on where they are; So there will be less factories to power energy; It would save energy; Make us a bit better but needs a windy place.
No	15	They ruin the landscape; Because they look ugly.

Question 3

Members of the Youth Council were asked to consider what sorts of facilities they thought were most important in a new development. There were given 5 stickers and everyone was asked to vote for their 5 most important facilities. The results of the voting are set out in the table below:

Facilities	Votes
Doctor's surgery/ health centre	55
Primary school	32
Small Park/ play ground at the end of street	28
Street of shops	34
A large park within half an hour walk (Like Watermead Park or Beacon Hill)	16
Secondary school	24
Place of work e.g. factory or office	13

Homes for people on low-incomes	9
Skate park	37
Bus service	34
Cycle routes	18
Place of worship (e.g. Church / Mosque)	9
Hall for community events	5
Nature reserves	6
Homes with a garden	40
Flats with no gardens	1
Small supermarket	32
Other suggestions	0
Misc Comment	More CCTV and Police on the streets needed.

Map Based Exercise

For the final exercise members of the Youth Council were asked to work in groups to design a major new development. Each group was given a map showing either East of Thurmaston or Northwest of Loughborough. They were given symbols for different types of homes and facilities and asked to locate these on a plan.

At the end of the exercise groups were given the opportunity to share their approach verbally with the rest of the youth forum. Below is a summary of that verbal feedback session:

Verbal Feedback Group 1

Suggest putting large and small houses together near to the primary school.

Important that the hospital, leisure centres and doctor's surgery were put in the middle of development so they could be accessed by everyone.

Verbal Feedback Group 2

This group were given a map showing the area to the north east of Thurmaston.

Their development included a secret nuclear bomb bunker, MI6 offices, a hospital, a nursing home and a prison within their development.

This group included all types of houses within their development. They also included nature reserves, places of worship and primary schools. These were evenly spread across the whole of the development, with no particular groupings. Small supermarkets, places of worship and places of work were shown on the edge of the development near to the boundary with Thurmaston.

A doctor's surgery was located next to the secondary school.

This group also put bus routes everywhere.

Verbal Feedback Group 3

Group 3 indicated that their development has been designed to be ergonomic. Hospitals and doctors surgery have been grouped together. Places of worship were located next to all types of housing. A secondary school was located next to a play park. This group had also included smaller family homes and homes for people on low incomes.

This group included a wind powered sculpture in the middle of their proposal.

Group 3 also said that people in their development would get around by buses and cycling which would have public subsidy, so not relying on cars. Cars would still however be used in their developments.

Finally, group 3 said that their development would also include pubs, community halls and swimming pools.

Verbal Feedback Group 4

This group put a new junction on the M1 motorway for easy access for Hathern and Loughborough.

Group 4 put schools, play areas and shops near homes. The group placed a place of worship near to smaller homes. Nature reserves were also put near houses. The group indicated that there should be a country park which should be for everyone. The group said that there should be open space near to Hathern which would be important for separation. There were worries that open spaces would be lost and that development might be too close to Hathern. The group felt that it would be important to stay separate from Hathern.

Notes from Exercise 3 Taken From Maps

Not all participants wrote their table number of their notes. Where this is the case we have given the notes a separate number.

Table 4 written by participants on the map

Table 4 had the map of the North east of Thumaston. The group had a split their development broadly into two:

Larger family homes were sited to the north west of the development and included a primary school, two small parks, a secondary school, 2 small shopping streets, place of worship. Places of work were provided towards the southern end of separate northern community (towards the centre for the whole urban extension).

Houses for people on low incomes, smaller family homes and flats were provided to the southeast (separate from the larger family homes to the northwest). The area to the southeast also included a primary school, small park, a small supermarket and a further shopping centre, (in the centre of the southwest part of the development).

Between the two communities in the central area was located a hospital, doctors surgery / health centre (which should be open 24/7), a further two shopping centres, a council building, a large country park, two places of worships, halls for community events, two nature reserves and two old peoples' homes.

For transport, the group thought that there should be some roads, but that there should be a variety of transport options including paths, buses and trains. The group also said that all transport is important. Cars should be used for long journeys, biking and walking for short journeys and buses to be used for more than 1 person.

No table number given, referred to as 'Notes 1'

The group was given West of Loughborough

The group located all homes for people on low incomes next to the motorway.

All small family houses were located in the same area to the north of the development area adjacent to Hathern. To the east of the small family homes the group put a small supermarket, a place of worship and a small park. To the west of the small family homes the group placed a nature reserve and a primary school.

Flats were located to the area immediately to the north of the Black Brook.

All large family houses were located south of the Black Brook, to the north of Garendon Historic Park and Garden. Within this area the group put a secondary school, a doctor's surgery and a primary school. To the west of the large family houses, the group located a small shopping street.

In the area adjoining Garendon Historic Park and Garden to the north, the group placed a large country park, a nature reserve, a place of worship and a place of work (the only place of work in the urban extension).

The group set out cycle tracks, bus routes and cars as means of transport. No further explanation was given. Routes were shown on the plan, but it was no clear whether these were for buses, footpaths or cars.

No table number given, referred to as 'Group II'

The group were given land West of Loughborough.

The group placed a large proportion of development to the north of urban extension towards Hathern. In this area the group placed:

- Small family homes
- Houses for people on low incomes
- Larger family homes
- Flats
- Places of worship
- Small Park/ Playground
- Primary school
- Small shopping street and small supermarket

For all of the above the different elements seemed to be evenly distributed around the northern part of the development site. In this northern part of the development the group also placed a large country park and nature reserve (near to Bailey's plantation)

In the middle of the development the group placed;

- Homes for people on low incomes,
- Secondary school
- Hall for community events
- Places of work
- A hospital (around the area currently covered by the sewerage works).

The area on the map marked 'Buthole Lane' the group proposed Alton Towers.

In the south of the development area (north of Garendon Park) the group located large family homes, a primary school, a small park and a place of worship.

For transport the group suggested a monorail system on a route running south west/northeast across the development site.

No table number given, referred to as 'Group III'

Group III were given land East of Thurmaston.

The general approach was a more evenly spread of housing types across the development area. There were more, large family homes placed towards the centre

and northwest of the development area. Generally speaking there was a greater concentration of flats, smaller family homes towards the east of the development site. Homes for people on low incomes were distributed across all of the development.

In the northwest part of the development site, group III placed a small park and a place of worship. A nature reserve was placed on the Barkby Thorpe Lane, West of Barkby Thorpe.

In the southeast part of the development area group III placed a small shopping street and places of work. Group III placed a large country park immediately south of Barkby Thorpe.

In the central area, group III placed a doctor's surgery, primary school, hall for community events, secondary school, place of worship, small supermarket, bowling alley, cinema and ice rink.

No table number given, referred to as 'Group IV'

This group looked at the land West of Loughborough.

The group placed larger and smaller family houses to the north of the development along with a primary school.

In the middle of the development around Black Brook the group placed small playground, nature's reserve, large country park, small supermarket, places of work doctor's surgery, secondary school, place of worship, community hall, small shopping street. The group also put a dominos pizza in the middle.

In the south of the development the group placed flats and houses for people on low incomes. They also placed a primary school and a place of worship in this area.

Around the whole of the development site from Hathern down to Garendon and from the motorway to the western edge of Loughborough, the group put a wall.

No table number given, referred to as 'Group V'

This group looked at the West of Loughborough.

This group placed some smaller family homes and larger family homes in a small area to the north along with a place of worship, a pub and nature reserve.

In the area in the middle of development (north of the Black Brook) the group placed a primary school, place of work, large family home, small park/playground, community hall, doctor's surgery and secondary school.

South of the Black Brook adjacent to the motorway the group placed flats and places of work. In the middle of development, south of the Black Brook the group placed homes for people on low incomes a small supermarket and a place of worship. In

the middle of the development (south of Black Brook and adjacent to Loughborough, the group proposed the tallest tower ever.

To the south of the development the group placed larger family homes, places of work, large country park, nature reserves and a pub.

The group also said that there should be light everywhere.

Each of the elements described above were in distinct 'neighbourhoods, defined where the group puts roads.

No table number given, referred to as 'Group VI'

The group looked at land East of Thurmaston.

The group did not use many of the symbols for housing. The group placed small and large family homes to the east of the development area. Further smaller family homes were also placed in the corner of the development around June Avenue together with a small shopping street. Further family homes were placed to the north of the development adjacent to the railway line, together with a small park and nature reserve.

In the middle of development the group placed homes for people on low incomes, small family homes, a doctor's surgery, a nursery, leisure centre, halls for community events, a multi-faith' place of worship, a youth centre and secondary school.

No table number given, referred to as 'Group VII'

The group looked at land West of Loughborough

The group placed a number of large family homes to the north of the development along with a place of worship. Below this but still north of the Black Brook the group placed a number of smaller family homes, some larger family homes along with a small playground and a small shopping street.

In a central area of the development (south of the Black Brook), the group put small family homes, a primary school, halls for community events, doctor's surgery, secondary school and homes for people on low incomes.

In the south of the development the group placed flats, a small park/playground a place of worship, a primary school, houses for people on low incomes a place of worship and a place of work.

No table number given, referred to as 'Group VIII'

The group looked at land East of Thurmaston

The group placed most of the development in the central part of the site and south-eastern corner. In the north the group did not place any housing, but placed a country park, small family park, primary school and a small supermarket.

The group set out a development in a pattern similar to a grid-iron. The group evenly distributed the different types of dwellings across the site. The group did not have a central area for services and facilities rather these were also spread evenly across the development.