

APPENDIX 1

1. How the Community was involved in the Town Plan

In order to ensure that the Town Plan reflects the views of local residents, extensive consultation was vital. A number of methods were used to obtain their views. Witham is fortunate to have such a diverse population, in terms of culture, socio-economic bands and age range. Consultation across this diversity is not simple, therefore a range of methods was used.

Extensive advertisement via

- Articles in 'The Voice', the Town Council's quarterly newsletter, informing and inviting comment
- Articles in local newspapers
- Town council website and Facebook
- Visits to clubs, organisations and local amenity groups
- Visits to schools, playgroups and senior citizen's groups
- Workshops with the town's tenants and residents' associations
- Questionnaires to shoppers in the town
- Meetings with local businesses
- Consultation with businesses on the industrial estates
- Meetings with local retailers
- Historic Neighbourhood Planning workshops 'Witham Town Influencing our Future' – held 26.4.14 and 30.4.14
- Study of the GVA Report - February 2014 – Braintree District Council – Witham Town Centre strategy.
- Over 100 Community Groups contacted prior to
- Witham Town Plan – workshop held 21st October 2015

Participants - Numerous individuals and organisations have contributed to the compilation of the Town Plan. These include:-

- Boys Brigade
- Chamber of Commerce
- Citizens' Advice
- Braintree District Council
- Essex County Council
- Essex Police
- Grove Shopping Centre
- New River Retail
- Grove Road Residents Association
- Holdfast Credit Union
- New Rickstones Academy – teachers and governors
- Maltings Academy – teachers and governors
- United Reformed Church
- Witham and Countryside Society
- Witham Carnival Association
- Witham History Group
- Witham Lionesses
- Witham Rotary Club
- Witham Rugby Club
- Witham Strategy Group
- Witham Twinning Association
- Witham Town Team

At the Town Plan workshop in October 2015, the concepts were to

- Refresh the Town Plan (last version 2003)
- See where Witham is today
- What are our strengths and issues?
- Agree six key priorities?
- What is the vision for the future?
- Where will be in 20 year's time?

SUMMARY
Witham Town Plan
Report of workshop held 21st October 2015

Summary of Vision Statements

In 20 years' time we want Witham to

- Be a balanced community – a town where people are proud to live and work.
- Have good access to high quality local medical care and good transport links to hospitals.
- Be a place where individuals take responsibility for their health, eat well and get plenty of exercise.
- Have a mix of homes including adequate affordable housing and homes for young people
- Be proud of the design of new areas and have infrastructure that, has kept pace with growth and, provides facilities for new and existing residents
- Be a place where green and open spaces are treasured
- Have successful retail shops that make the town a shopping magnet and a destination of choice (having clean streets, prestigious shops, niche shops and well known outlets to which young people aspire)
- Have retained (and enhanced) the historic character of the town centre
- Have a town centre free from HGVs with freely flowing traffic and sufficient parking (at affordable rates) for commuters, workers and shoppers
- Have a town centre that is not a through route for A120 Braintree traffic wishing to access the A12
- Have reliable and affordable transport services to key destinations within the town (station, schools, employment) and connections to a Park and Ride site
- Have excellent transport links to Braintree, Stansted, and hospitals in Chelmsford and Colchester
- Have an excellent cycle network enabling access to all parts of town
- Be the location of choice for businesses to set up or relocate, providing secure local employment, apprenticeships and training
- Be a safe and caring place to live, with a wide range of activities for all ages
- Have increased levels of aspiration, opportunities, skills and income, resulting in greatly reduced levels of deprivation
- Be proud of our high quality schools, leisure facilities and community centres.

In addition to these objectives, Witham's ability and flexibility to cope with rapid change in the modern world (e.g. technology and lifestyle) will be a significant factor.

WITHAM -TOWN PLAN

Appendix 3

Additional Sources

(Documents available on request)

	TITLE	PUBLISHED	PUBLISHER
1	Witham Town Plan- A Future for our Town	Spring 2003	Witham Town Council
2	Empoyment Land Review	2007	Braintree District Council
3	2011 -National Census - Population growth in Witham 1801 -2011 Housing/ households in Witham Economic activity	2011	UK Government
4	Assessment of vacant employment sites by Lambert, Smith Hampton	2012	Commissioned by Braintree District Council
5	Local Development Framework Plan for growth 2012 -2033 in Braintree District	2012	Braintree District Council
6	GVA Report - Witham Town centre Strategy	February 2014	Commissioned by Braintree District Council
7	Profile of the Braintree District for 2015	2015	Braintree District Council
8	Witham 2015-2033 Strategic Vision Task Force Town Council Working Group	Mar-15	Witham Town Council
9	Witham Town Centre Improvements - Questionnaire Backing Witham - Your Town Your Future	Mar-15	Braintree District Council
10	Ofsted Reports Educational visits and reports	2015 onwards	UK Government
11	Statistics on Doctors surgery capacity Access to Hospital Facilities for Witham Residents	Apr-15	NHS England
12	Research Report into the Needs of the Youth and Community of Witham	2013 Updated February 2016	Witham Boys Brigade
13	A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening - Public consultation	Jan-17	Highways England
14	A120 Braintree to A12 - Consulation on Route Options	Jan-17	Essex County Council