

Planning Consultation (DPD)

From: Jose Kimber [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 February 2022 18:15
To: Planning Consultation (DPD)
Subject: Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Sirs

I have some observations regarding the Neighbourhood Plan:

1. Insufficient attention has been given to the Tourist Information Centre and the Museum when considering Leisure and Tourism. A more detailed response on this is to be provided by the Museum Trustees.

2. P89 Policy T13 A ii

This refers to the provision of additional football pitches and improving the pitches at Amory Park. At the present time, when the football pitches are in use there is inadequate parking and this detrimentally impacts the Bowls Club which shares the site. It is imperative that parking requirements are properly taken into account when considering provision of additional facilities. At present the hard courts are unused and are a place for antisocial behaviour and broken glass. This area needs improvement and could be opened up for additional car parking. There is no mention of what is to be done with the hard courts. Amory Park is currently very run down, though it has great potential and efforts to improve it were made by the Friends of Amory Park, but these seem to have come to nothing.

3 p90 Cultural and Community venues

It is somewhat surprising that the only cultural venue to receive a mention here is the Cinema. There is no mention of the museum, nor of any of the community centres, particularly those offering a range of activities such as Sunningmead Community Centre and Old Heathcoat School. There should also be mention of other facilities such as the Indoor Bowls Centre and the 3 outdoor bowls club, none of which get a mention but which are important community assets.

P95 Transport and Movement

This seems to concentrate on walking and cycling. Casual mention is made about concerns about the increase in traffic caused by new housing developments. It is all very well to talk about encouraging walking and cycling, but it has to be recognised that the majority of journeys will have to be made by car, due to the inadequacy of public transport in the town. There are many elderly people for whom walking and cycling is simply impractical, and many days when the weather is not conducive to walking or cycling. Whilst I applaud the desire to make walking and cycling safer, I think that attention is also needed to ensuring that there is adequate parking provision. Free park and ride facilities from Tiverton to Parkway station, or free parking at Parkway, would help a lot to encourage train use and reduce car usage. Many roads in the town have inadequate parking facilities resulting in cars being parked in the roads, often dangerously, restricting the road width and making access for emergency vehicles difficult. Consideration should be given to making more one way streets in the Westex area, painting double yellow lines, and providing more residents' parking areas.

P135 Amory Park.

There is no mention of the Mid Devon Indoor Bowls Centre here. Surely this is an important asset that deserves a mention. Not only it is a bowls club but it is also used as a local community centre, open to the public, with a fully licensed bar. It is used as a polling station and is used for community events as well as bowling.

P144 Play area off Cudmore Park

Claimed to be "highly popular among locals". It is hidden away on top of the hill with hidden access only from Cudmore Park, and the play equipment is minimal and very poor. It is hardly used. It would be better to have the play area on the green space in Atherton Way. I suggest you remove the "highly popular" as it is demonstrably untrue. It needs improvement, and particularly better access.

It seems to be a great pity that some of the focus groups, including the Facilities and Open Spaces group I was supposed to be on, never happened, because a much better plan might have been produced. I recognise that those who compiled it did a great job and put in a huge amount of time and effort, but quite a lot has been missed as a result of the lack of focus group consultation.

Regards

Jose Kimber

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