



ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

FEEDBACK FROM GROUP SESSIONS – FORUM MEETING 07.09.16

Leamington Spa – Likes

Town centre
Signage
The Parade
Architecture
Parks/waterways
Diverse population
Diverse night time economy
Position/access to other towns and cities
Shopping (independent traders)
Creativity/artists
Community activities on offer
People/pride in the town
Range and number of events/leisure activities available
Transport links
Safety
Mix of ages
Educational opportunities/diversity

Dislikes

Lack of care for Old Town
Empty shops
Rubbish/fly tipping
Anti social behaviour
Lack of toilet provision
Unsafe at night
Lack of community centres/facilities
HMO's (student accommodation)
Expensive independent shops
High rents and rates
Parking provision and restrictions
Lack of an open market
North/South divide
Cultural divides
Traffic congestion

Train station entrance to town
Growth of restaurants at the expense of retail
High house prices
Lack of temporary accommodation for travellers
Lack of transport plan
High bus fares/lack of evening buses to outlying areas
Contrast between poor and wealthy areas of town
Poor offer by Tourist Information Office

What would you change?

Remove divide between North and South
More purpose built student accommodation
Improve area around the railway station
Cycling paths – better provision of
More litter and recycling bins
Joined up green spaces
Availability of work
Canal improvements
Prioritise outlying areas
Better relationship with students
More investment in infrastructure rather than “glory structures”
Stronger resourced planning department at WDC
Move the tip
The left behind
Don’t just listen – deliver on the ground

Key Issues

(listed in popularity order from those submitted by each group)

1. Housing affordability and HMO's
2. North/South divide
3. Transport and Parking
4. Relationship with Warwick University students living in the town
5. Protection of open spaces
6. Design of new builds – development control
7. Development of the town as a hub for creatives and SME's.
8. Inward investment in Old Town

Key Opportunities

(listed in popularity order from those submitted by each group)

1. Railway station entrance
2. Influence design
3. Cultural/creative hub

4. Change perceptions and experiences of Old Town
5. Inform and influence where affordable housing should be located

Getting Started

First tasks:

- Set up steering group
- Membership? All age and ethnic groups
- Task groups based on key themes e.g. housing, transport, green spaces, business
- Make sure key organisations are represented
- Promote by word of mouth
- Involvement of the voluntary sector
- Look at other plans for good practise examples
- Look at current use of and demand for properties – types?
- Cross check Local Plan
- Matrix of wards by issues and place – localised issues and common issues
- Look at listings of buildings – do we want to protect more?
- Finance – budget?
- District Council liaison – officers

Methods of communication and promotion:

- Website – link to others, create own.
- Branding
- Banners/posters
- Roadshow
- Questionnaires – paper and online
- Use of social media methods
- Noticeboards
- “Streetlife”
- Language translations
- Radio/press
- Workshops/drop ins
- Hitting central venues like supermarkets, community centres, childrens’ centres
- Ideas forms
- Leafleting
- Physical model/maps to look at and work with
- Schools participation
- Logo – competition?
- Best/worst of Leamington – competition?
- Champions for each ward/area
- Showcase event at the town hall
- Make it fun/positive/stimulating/meaningful/personal/simple/memorable