

St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

September 2013 newsletter

The second meeting of the Forum took place on September 12th at St Helens Church Hall, with forty people attending. We discussed plans for the next steps in preparing a neighbourhood plan. There will be consultation sessions and workshops, open to the public, on a series of topics to be covered in the plan. The suggested topics are HOUSING, CONSERVATION, SHOPPING PARADES, LOCAL FACILITIES (health and schools), EMPLOYMENT AND ENTERPRISE, LATIMER ROAD, TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC, SUSTAINABILITY.

At the end of the discussion, people were invited to fill in a short questionnaire on their views about our area. The responses will help inform the next stages in developing the plan. Please feel free to add more views at www.stwq.org or by dropping in a note at 95 Highlever Road. Thanks for reading this, Henry Peterson, Chair STQW Forum.

WHAT MAKES THIS AREA SPECIAL?

A good atmosphere
Lovely homogenous housing conservation policy
Happy families of all ages peacefully cohabiting
The trees and conservation area
Civilised residents
Open, light, warm red brick, low, even the trees uniform
The history, the pretty houses, the sense of community
Architectural integrity, low-rise family area
Uniform buildings, trees, mix of generations
It is quiet
Low skyline. People live here for a long time.
St Helens Festival. Borough-wide parking. Edwardian streetscape.
Mix of people who live here.
Being a Conservation Area

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

A good community spirit
Wide streets, trees, open spaces
Easy residents parking, local shops well established, parks nearby
Quiet and green
Calm, spacious roads
Front garden trees, white windows and red brick
The people – cosmopolitaness – large park
Quiet, local shops, friendly
Low rise buildings
Large gardens, low density housing
Community spirit
It's quiet, fairly well kept and fairly free of traffic

WHAT IS REALLY ANNOYING?

Litter, street cleaning, broadband service inadequate
Dog litter. Arrival of Tescos, and bemoan loss of pub
Continued construction of basements
Juggernauts parking noisily early in the morning before moving elsewhere, unnecessary noise
from deliveries and commercial document-shredding in the street
People cycling on pavements and dog poo

Litter, disappearing views, no dedicated or regular (street) cleaners, fly-tipping
Traffic noise from motorway. Not enough street cleaning
Lack of amenities, gyms, nurseries
Loss of front gardens and back gardens to paving
Basements put in everywhere. Empty shops.
The thought of more high rise buildings on the periphery

IF THERE WAS ONE THING YOU COULD BRING INTO THE AREA. WHAT WOULD IT BE?

A family restaurant
Shops, restaurants, pedestrianise St Helens
Shared communal garden, e.g. bowling green or back of Kelfield
Business in the empty shops in St Helens Gardens
Restore station on North Pole Road
Sports club, perhaps expand the bowling to other things too?
Squash?
Plus an evening restaurant
Perhaps have bus going along St Helens too?
A first world war memorial in St Marks Park
More bins
More public transport
More amenities
Permission to put up dormer windows at back of Kelfield Gardens
Community meeting space
An off-license

AND ONE THING THAT YOU WOULD LOSE?

Less high rise buildings in H&F
Carnival, fly-tipping
Painted house fronts, towers of terror
Advertising towers and tall buildings being built
Noise
Argyll Place – new development
Rubbish
Collectively, the plane trees, old and ugly which blight front gardens by blocking sun and rain from them