

BECCLES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
NOTE OF GROUP DISCUSSION at BECCLES NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER
3rd JULY 2018

1. Scepticism that the plan can actually achieve anything; concern as to where the money will come from to implement its proposals.
2. Dissatisfaction with quality of Beccles' **open spaces**; they are like 'waste ground'. Reference was made to the lack of money to maintain them, and reliance on volunteers.
3. A **functioning health centre** was required to meet current needs, let alone the additional demands generated by proposed development.
4. **New housing:**
 - priority should be given to local needs,
 - the housing should be mixed, in terms of both affordability and age (i.e. the elderly should not be segregated),
 - mix should include studio flats.
5. **Traffic:**
 - concern about the impact on the town centre of traffic generated by the London Road scheme and the proposed Lidl and worry about the impact of new development on the town centre generally,
 - scepticism that the new by-pass will remove a significant amount of traffic from the town centre.
6. **Pavements:**
 - should be made safer for children and the disabled, but recognition that widening may not be practical,
 - in the interests of the blind specifically, a request that the smoothness of pavements is improved.
7. **Town centre:**
 - views were mixed as to whether further pedestrianization of the town centre would be a benefit or not; concern about impact of pedestrianization on business,
 - reference was made to the (large) number of charity shops but there was some question as to whether this was necessarily a bad thing.
8. **Business rates** should be monitored because start-ups would be deterred if they were too high.
9. Concern about **brownfield sites** and specifically the land adjoining the station.

[END]

