

Listening to You



Denby Dale and Kirkburton

Venue: Shelley Village Hall

Date: 21 November 2007

Attendance: 31

Facilitators: Dick Hewitson and Janet Russell

Following suggestions from the last series of “Listening to You” events we invited front line workers from partner organisations including, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, Kirklees Active Leisure, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees Primary Care Trust.

Key points from discussions

1. Lack of facilities for young people was highlighted as a problem as there is not enough for them to do and no venues to carry out activities in. Young people find it intimidating to go to Huddersfield to the cinema or bowling.

Stocksmoor/Thurstonland have received £8,000 funding to start a new youth club.

Older teenagers wanted a shelter and kick around area to hang around in but their proposal was rejected in a public meeting.

Off-road biking was also discussed – young people need a place locally where they can do this without disturbing local residents.

Floodlit facilities in the Skelmanthorpe area would lead to participation of 30-50 young people on a regular basis all year round instead of just the summer months. Access to school facilities should be made easier and more affordable.

2. Access to council services is a problem for older people who don't like computers/internet/telephone systems. They like to talk to someone face to face.

Suggested an information point/office within each locality or a mobile bus like the library vans. These could have a seating area/surgeries for various departments. This would aid information sharing between different services and could also provide a 'one stop shop' for young people for health issues/advice.

3. Over used road links to motorways and town centres were highlighted. Current road systems can't sustain the demand. Public transport is infrequent with not enough buses especially at peak times. Buses to

Barnsley are only twice a week. Travelling to doctor's surgeries and local services is a problem for residents who are held to ransom by one bus company.

4. Lack of facilities for older people was highlighted. Adult Services have closed down their respite and day care services. Now there are only a few self funding groups.
5. Affordable housing is an issue that could create community tension. Young people will have to access housing outside the locality. There are also some conflicts between long time residents and new comers.
6. Growth is needed for sustainability. Different groups of residents want different types of developments for the area. Residents can't afford village prices and travel outside the locality to shop in larger supermarkets such as Morrisons.