

# Neighbourhood Plan ~ Town Centre Responses November 2016

## Person A

- 1) Because of the detrimental impact on the image of the town Owners of properties which have been empty for a long time, (specifically the Plume of Feathers) should be approached and compelled to offer on the market at a reasonable price.
- 2) The long talked about relief road incorporating Oaklands Drive should be built.
- 3) If the section of Mill Road between the water wheel and the entrance to the college were made on way if would make the corner at the old mill site much safer and stop Mill Road being used as a rat run.
- 4) The old Bostock's site would be ideal for the coach park which the town needs.
- 5) It would be good to see the end of the Victorian arcade painted.
- 6) Buildings which have a face lift should be in keeping with the rest of the town, for example faced with local stone.

## Person B

██████████ is a teacher at the college. Two years ago the college was approached to see if their drive could be used as a coach park. The colleges response was positive and it was felt that 4 or 5 coaches could be accommodated, but nothing has come of the proposal. He made the point that there is safe pedestrian access to the town and also that it would draw visitors attention to the park which is often missed

## Person C

- 1) "Okehampton town centre has just about had it"
- 2) "I am tempted to put up a notice telling people that it might be quicker to shop in Tavistock or Crediton"
- 3) He does some voluntary work in one of the charity shops and finds that visitors who come by coach or bus say that there are plenty of tea rooms and second hand shops which they like. These visitors also say what a friendly place Okehampton is.
- 4) Would like to see more footpaths giving access to the town centre, eg from Kestrel close to the school after which there is a path down to Okelands Drive. Currently it is a long walk along Upcott Valley and subsequently out onto Upcott Hill. People drive even to collect their children from school rather than walk.
- 5) If the centre of Okehampton is dead new shops such as national chains won't move in. Revitalise town centre by improving transport links.

## Person D

- 1) Continue to support local businesses by a) shopping in Okehampton rather than on line or in larger towns. b) Keep control of rate rises
- 2) So good to see more shops are looking tidy. Perhaps there is a snowball effect.
- 3) A compulsory purchase order should be put on the Plume of Feathers
- 4) Members of the community could think outside the box and establish community shops, pop up shops. In the light of the impact of internet shopping the town centre needs an injection of imagination.
- 5) Doesn't like the proliferation of garish led lights in shop windows

6) Okehampton shops shouldn't be trying to compete with Exeter.

Person E

- 1) If the new development along the Crediton Road had a pharmacy, pub, post office and convenience store it would help to alleviate the congestion in the town centre.
- 2) A road from the east end to the Pavilion in the park would also help to lessen the congestion.

Person F

- 1) There should be no more houses built until the infrastructure of the town centre has been sorted out
- 2) A one way system to alleviate traffic congestion either a] The Okelands Drive idea or b] School Way ~ Lidl carpark ~ North Road
- 3) A car park exit from Waitrose carpark onto Okelands Drive.

Person G (Waitrose employee)

Says she gets 'nothing but grief' when vehicle access along Market Street and School Way is choked.