

Committee: Local Plan Leadership Group
Title: Feedback on Consultation on Theme 5: Leisure, culture & healthy lifestyles
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Date: 29 April 2021

Summary

1. This report feeds back on the comments received on the First Consultation (Issues and Options) Theme 5: Leisure, culture & healthy lifestyles (LC&HL).

Recommendations

2. That members note
 - the consultation responses and the Forum's views
 - potential actions to address issues
 - that no final recommendations will be made until all comments have been considered (consultation ends 21 April 2021)
3. That members, if desired, provide any feedback e.g. for officers to consider later when making final recommendations, for Forum members' reference.

Financial Implications

2. None at this stage.

Background Papers

3. The following papers are referred to:
 - Leisure, culture & healthy lifestyles consultation summary
 - Community Stakeholder Forum response to LC&HL consultation 10 March 2021

Impact

4. None

Communication/Consultation	Consultation is on going
Community Safety	n/a

Equalities	Forthcoming policies will be subject to an equalities and Health Impact Assessment
Health and Safety	n/a
Human Rights/Legal Implications	n/a
Sustainability	Forthcoming policies will need to meet the sustainability objective of the Council
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	n/a

Situation

Background

5. In preparation to the formal consultation on a draft Local Plan the Council is consulting on a series of 9 themes. The starting point for the consultation on each theme is the Community Stakeholder Forum whose purpose is to inform, start a discussion and generate comment.
6. The fifth theme was on the topic of Leisure, culture & healthy lifestyles and was discussed by the Community Stakeholder Forum on 27 January 2021. The Forum heard a presentation on *Planning Healthier Places* given by Julia Thrift, Director of Healthier Place Making at the TCPA. The presentation and a video of the Forum are available on the [website](#).
7. Following the Forum the theme was open for public consultation asking the general question of 'How can existing places and new development support health and wellbeing?'. People are invited to make comments up to the close of the whole consultation on all the themes on 21 April. However, comments received within the first four weeks were summarised and presented back to the Forum for comment and to this working group.

Summary of consultation responses

8. Between the 27 January and 24 February 2021, 25 people responded to the theme.
9. Appendix 1 is a summary of these comments. Common themes are shown on the infographic adapted from the consultation document. This is followed by a more detailed summary of the comments.

Community Stakeholder response

10. Appendix 1 was discussed by the Community Stakeholder Forum on 10 March 2021. They were asked to consider if any of the comments were particularly pertinent or surprising.

11. The CSF considered the feedback to be very good, even if from only 25 responses, and were mostly in agreement. Additional points were made regarding:

- The desire for the tourist information service in Saffron Walden to cover the interests of the whole district, not just Saffron Walden
- The importance of provision of sporting and exercise activities for girls and women
- The desire to create a welcoming atmosphere and to meet the needs of people who may come here, not those who already live here; and to encourage and embrace diversity and multi-culturalism

12. The comments are summarised in Appendix 2

Officer comments

13. The rural context of Uttlesford and strong value placed on open space in the consultation responses highlights the importance of the open space assessment, standards and policies required to protect and enhance existing open spaces and deliver new open spaces

14. The consultation responses so far point to some key areas of work that spatial strategy and policies should seek to consider:

- Mapping and creating a network of open spaces
 - linking existing open spaces, public rights of way (PROW), footpaths and new spaces
 - delivery of safe, traffic free walking/cycle (and equestrian) greenways
- Further scrutinizing the open space evidence base and standards to assess access any imbalance in the diversity and distribution of open space/green spaces across the district, including:
 - Parks & gardens
 - Amenity greenspace
 - Natural and semi-natural greenspace
 - Provision for children and young people
 - Allotments/community food growing

15. The Council may wish to further consider usage and accessibility of open space within a rural context including:

- how the Local Plan responds to evidence gaps in open space
- protection and provision of open space within a 15 to 20-minute rural neighbourhood or a village cluster

16. There is a strong connection between an extensive open space network and active travel (walking, cycling), and healthy lifestyles.

17. Whilst residents acknowledge and value the visual amenity of agricultural land and footpaths through it, the Council may wish to seek to consider potential innovative policies to deliver greater accessibility to natural and semi-natural open space, protect and enhance biodiversity and greater benefit and use of the 'Countryside' by all e.g. via biodiversity credits and local nature recovery strategies being introduced via the Environment Bill
18. The impact of development on Hatfield Forest remains an important issue for development strategy in terms of:
- Protecting the Hatfield Forest as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI) and National Nature Reserve (NNR), from further harm
 - Consideration of the need and opportunity for a new country park or nature reserve to provide alternative open space to the forest
19. With regard to culture, there is pride and support in some excellent facilities and reference to a breadth of formal and informal organisations and events across the district and the benefit they contribute to quality of life in Uttlesford. The cultural network of venues, skills and events is little documented or promoted. The Council could look to examine how arts and culture support the local economy, contribute to health and wellbeing, skills and development and contribute to placemaking and the distinct identity and experience of Uttlesford

What happens next

20. The consultation on this theme remains open until 21 April 2021.
21. Officers and the Forum will consider any feedback made by members at this meeting. Final recommendations, taking into account all comments on all themes will be prepared after the close of consultation in April. The Council will use the comments to determine its vision, strategy, policies and prepare the draft Local Plan.
22. Early comments made on the final themes 6-9 will be presented to subsequent meetings of the Working Group.

Risk Analysis

23.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Insufficient regard is given to the comments received on the consultation	1 Little	3: Could lead to unsound plan.	Members and officers to carefully consider results of consultation, and clearly explain reasons for decisions made.

- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
- 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
- 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
- 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.