

Uttlesford Youth Council – Summary of Housing Seminar

Feedback from Housing Event - 1 December 2018 2pm – 4.30pm

Some of the points are what young people found important, and some are questions that people would like answers to. If any councillors/officers could provide answers, they can email them to youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk who will relay them to the people who wrote the questions.

Summary written by Sarah Nicholas. Red highlighted = 3 most important issues from each topic as voted by young people.

Housing

1. Ecological design / using materially ecologically sourced / lots of natural light in the houses / use renewable materials
2. Access to high quality primary and secondary schools, make schools and new settlements stand out (USP of the settlement)
3. Welcoming to all communities, nationalities and religions / spread out / mix together houses and facilities to make them accessible to all.
4. Properly affordable housing / Is it financially feasible to subsidise housing in an area like saffron Walden for those who work there? / if the target for residents are young, new families, then more of them will likely not have the money to improve their houses immediately. It may be helpful to have basic amenities included in the houses from day 1.
5. Old style house design / not just cramming houses and having a fair-sized garden / Modern design inside – rustic/'community' design on the outside. / Modern design is often a good solution to problems with accessibility of houses, both economically and physically. The traditional design of houses is not only more expensive but also impractically designed for the disabled and for young families with children.

Large rooms as opposed to lots of small rooms / bigger houses / bigger bedrooms as used for living and sleeping by teens especially. / freedom interior design choice – minimal, rustic, based around a hobby. / Open Plan opportunity for privacy / Quality of homes to be improved, better insulation, better connections, Tower blocks futuristic, sustainable community, outside green areas.

Do not build in green belts around cities.

Outdoor spaces safe place to live. Reduce pollution. Better access to cycle paths, job opportunities.

Fitness and health

1. Walking routes through the countryside / Running/cycling routes readily available
2. Local sports centre that is affordable / areas specifically designated for sports use – play football / Floodlights

Despite online recreation becoming more prominent, many people also strive to improve themselves physically as a direct result of seeing others on the internet doing the same, **as such gym(s) and access to large open areas would be important.**

Although noise insulation could partially solve the problem, public spaces and other establishments should be a decent distance from the majority of homes to allow for silence when it may be needed.

Technology and Gizmos

1. Good broadband and connection / appeal to people who need it for work / fast WiFi / If a lot of people are to live in these areas, internet links are key, especially considering that more and more choose to work from home – consistent and high-speed internet is crucial (also crucial for entertainment).
2. Well insulated houses to save energy / built in environmental elements in houses so that people don't have to put them in themselves. Simple recycling facilities in each house, with different types of rubbish being collected.

AI will advance in houses

Digital congregation or community / some communities have really strong for example facebook communities which help organise things.

To what level will this automation affect job provision? / Is this provision of leisure or showing things in people's faces and tell them to be happy? / what level of communities have a say in what these technologies will provide? / How do these communities plan on integrating? / How is it going to be set up?

How will power for these technologies be supplied? / are houses designed by a generalised formula or are they being designed by feedback from samples of populations planning on living there? / how affordable will this be? / Is the technology mandatory?

Transport

1. Good and affordable / subsidized public transport. Expensive public transport systems reduce independence of young people.
2. Bike lanes on every street
3. Underground car parking / parking spaces, strict parking / generally less cars.
4. Access to trains / links between transport modes / transport links, especially public transport, must be a priority especially as cars are becoming more unpopular amongst young people. / Close travel access such as a train station within the town or community. This would be more useful as trains are used a lot by young people and those who do not drive.

Spread out infrastructure (eg shops) so people more likely to walk.

Balance between roads with pedestrian authority for example Saffron Walden Market Square and with auto authority like Thaxted Road which is not good. Some cities/towns achieve a really good balance on all roads that makes an inhabitant not feel the need to go by car.

Amenities, Leisure and Having Fun.

1. Have mature trees lining all the streets / green space woven into streets – not only large designated 'green space areas' / Landscaped green spaces not just a common

- like Bridge End Gardens SW / seeing green space from windows of all houses / space to run which is green i.e. not a street.
2. Community Areas / recreational areas – young people learning new useful things (cooking, playing instruments) / leisure facilities e.g. cinemas and swimming pools / A library absolutely vital – many people tend to want to learn things in their free time, especially due to the internet exposing people to new concepts. / having structure and organisation in new communities as opposed to just sprawls of houses. Music Centre – has instrument and teachers to try and make it easier for people to learn. / Access to practical recreational activities and be educational and open. / Provision for adults to meet and make friends once they are no longer in schooling eg language classes, fitness sessions, sports groups, regular lectures, internet gaming at so called “LAN cafes”
 3. Gardens – community gardens spread between streets and areas / accessibility – close knit communities / equal access regardless of wealth. / vegetable growing space at houses without the need of travelling to allotment / multi-purpose good quality open space / Green roofs and solar panels on shops and large community spaces.

Community discussions being conducted in a fair way not by opportunity or volunteer samples

Less big supermarkets and shops – more deliveries.

Shops make more jobs, so more shops are good

Police stations in the town. The recent ram raids have highlighted the minimal police presence in the area. That goes without mentioning the drug problems in Saffron Walden. People feel insecure despite living in relatively low crime area.

A variety of facilities and provision for different social groups, selling things people want and need.