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## Sleford Neighbourhood Development Plan

# *Vision and Objectives for Sleford*

- report of the Second 'Open Day' consultation



Produced by Sleford Neighbourhood Plan Working Group  
June 2022

## **1 Background**

1.1 During the development of the Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan (NP) from 2019 onwards we engaged the public in a variety of ways to seek their views and suggestions, despite the many restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic from early 2020 to early 2022.

1.2 The engagement methods used included household and business questionnaires, our NP website and the Town Council website, social media, press articles, banners, posters, leaflets, displays in the library, a project with school students, stalls in the marketplace and two Open Days on the 'Vision and Objectives'; all of which will be summarised in our 'Engagement Report'.

1.3 All of that engagement activity produced a huge number of comments and input from residents, visitors, businesses, and organisations. That engagement also produced the final 'Vision and Objectives' diagram and table for the NP (Annex A).

## **2 The Vision and Objectives 'Open Days'**

2.1 The first draft of the 'Vision and Objectives' was presented to the public and businesses at a 'NP Open Day' at Sleaford Town Hall on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 from 2pm to 7pm. Attendance at the event was unfortunately low due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and torrential rain on the day. Nevertheless a range of residents and business owners did attend and gave us their views on the Vision and Objectives and other aspects of the NP.

2.2 The first draft of the 'Vision and Objectives' was overwhelmingly supported at the first Open Day. But some useful improvements were suggested. The arrival of the Omicron strain of Coronavirus delayed the second Open Day by several months. The second Open Day on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022, which was also unfortunately a wet one. But the revised Vision and Objectives (Annex A) were overwhelmingly supported in the fifty-one comments received.

## **3 Results**

The feedback from the public and businesses that we received at the second Open Day is set out in the tables at Annex B. There were no suggestions for changing the wording of the Vision or Objectives. Most of the comments received were about actions that should be taken to deliver the objectives. Most of the suggestions matched those from our other forms of engagement with the people, businesses and organisations of the town. The suggestions made at the second Open Day will be taken into account when developing the NP and the policies to implement it.

## **4 Lessons learned**

The lessons learned from both Open Days are that the residents, visitors, businesses, and organisations in the town largely agree how we have summarised their views into the Vision and Objectives. We will now use the Vision and Objectives to produce a draft NP hopefully by the autumn of 2022. All parties will then be consulted on that draft plan.



**TABLE - VISION and OBJECTIVES** - from the diagram above reading clockwise

<b>VISION</b>			
SLEAFORD will be <b>Clean, Green and Flourishing</b>			
<b>PRINCIPLES</b> - what we are aiming for (Inner ring)	<b>KEY OBJECTIVES</b> - how we will achieve the principles (Outer ring)		
1. Sleaford will be: <b>ENTERPRISING</b>	1. With fast and reliable internet access for working, shopping and accessing services.	2. Having a wide range of accessible, well designed accommodation for businesses and services.	3. With heritage, arts and cultural facilities attractive to residents and visitors.
2. Sleaford will be: <b>HEALTHY</b>	4. Having convenient and safe routes for walking and cycling.	5. With Indoor and outdoor facilities to relax, play and enjoy life and sports.	6. And good local healthcare facilities.
3. Sleaford will be: <b>SUSTAINABLE</b>	7. With places and buildings designed to help reduce the impacts of climate change.	8. Care for the natural environment and built heritage, protecting the river Slea, planting trees and increasing green spaces and biodiversity.	9. Less town centre traffic and more carbon-neutral travel (buses, cycling and walking).
4. Sleaford will be: <b>SUPPORTIVE</b>	10. Safe streets In neighbourhoods well-serviced with shops, schools, and other facilities.	11. Good educational and cultural facilities, accessible to all.	12. Housing located, designed, built, and priced to meet the needs of all residents

Table 1 – Feedback on the draft Vision and Objectives

ITEM	FEEDBACK at the Open Day
VISION - Sleaford will be Clean, Green, and Flourishing	No changes were suggested to the Vision. Several comments fully supported the Vision and Objectives.
PRINCIPLES - what we are aiming for (Inner ring)	No changes were suggested to the principles
OBJECTIVES	
1. Sleaford will be:  ENTERPRISING	No change suggested.
2. Sleaford will be:  HEALTHY	No change suggested.
3. Sleaford will be:  SUSTAINABLE	No change suggested.
4. Sleaford will be:  SUPPORTIVE	No change suggested.

**Table 2 – Feedback on the draft Objectives**

ITEM	FEEDBACK at the second Open Day
<b>Principle 1</b> Sleaford will be <b>ENTERPRISING</b>	
Objective 1. With fast and reliable internet access for working, shopping and accessing services.	Internet access is very poor in too many parts of town.
Objective 2. Having a wide range of accessible, well-designed accommodation for businesses and services.	The plan should show examples of pleasant and thriving shopping streets in other towns, with outdoor seating and trees in pots. Too many shop fronts on Southgate are not attractive or historic. The Bass Maltings should be turned into shops, flats and a community centre. We need a Chamber of Commerce to improve shops in the town.
Objective 3. With heritage, arts and cultural facilities attractive to residents and visitors.	Improved signage needed to show where our cultural sites are. The Hub is the best thing in the town. More arts and crafts facilities, in pop-up shops.
<b>Principle 2.</b> Sleaford will be <b>HEALTHY</b>	
Objective 4. Having convenient and safe routes for walking and cycling.	Safe cycle paths are needed, consult cyclists!
Objective 5. With Indoor and outdoor facilities to relax, play and enjoy life and sports.	
Objective 6. Good local health care facilities	We need a hospital to support residents who don't want to drive 30 miles to Lincoln and back. Demand for mental health services at Riverside Church has increased.
<b>Principle 3.</b> Sleaford will be: <b>SUSTAINABLE</b>	
Objective 7. With places and buildings designed to help reduce the impacts of climate change.	A major project of retrofitting is needed to reduce energy use and fuel bills. All new buildings should be carbon neutral.

<p>Objective 8. Care for the natural environment and built heritage, protecting the river Slea, planting trees and increasing green spaces and biodiversity.</p>	<p>The river Slea is our major asset. We need to protect it and enhance its use for leisure.</p> <p>Clean the river of rubbish in the town centre.</p> <p>The river Slea needs regular cleaning and remove all of the bricks in it.</p> <p>Needs the rubbish cleaning out of the river.</p> <p>Plant more trees across the town.</p> <p>More shrubs, flowers and trees.</p> <p>More trees in town centre for shade, in pots if necessary.</p>
<p>Objective 9. Less town centre traffic and more carbon-neutral travel (buses, cycling and walking).</p>	<p>Sleaford is a town dominated by cars.</p> <p>At least two more zebra crossings [needed] across Grantham Road and London Road.</p> <p>More car parks needed, without extortionate prices.</p> <p>Less traffic congestion, provide a Park and Ride service.</p> <p>Too much congestion at rush hours.</p> <p>Provide edge of town parking.</p> <p>We need a southern by-pass.</p> <p>Pavement repairs should be given higher priority.</p> <p>Evening bus services from the villages are needed.</p> <p>The traffic is the worst feature of Sleaford, it stops people from shopping in the town.</p> <p>Southgate should be pedestrianised and made more attractive to shoppers and visitors.</p> <p>Make Southgate pedestrian and install seats and street trees.</p> <p>Extend the train station footbridge over the railways line to the car park on Grantham Road.</p> <p>Air pollution is a serious health risk and should be reduced.</p> <p>Walking and wheelchairs are difficult on streets with uneven pavements e.g. Carre Street.</p> <p>Lack of information about bus services and timetable e.g. to Grantham.</p> <p>Bus 65 from Cranwell no longer goes to the train station.</p>

	<p>More frequent buses needed from Ruskington.</p> <p>More charging points needed for electric vehicles e.g. on lampposts.</p> <p>There should be no parking in the Market Place.</p> <p>The NKDC offices car park should be signposted at the weekends.</p> <p>The level crossing traffic lights should be integrated with the crossing closure.</p> <p>Only one disable parking space on Southgate, need more.</p> <p>Cars parked in Market Place restrict pedestrian access.</p>
Principle 4. Sleaford will be <b>SUPPORTIVE</b>	
Objective 10. Safe streets In neighbourhoods well-serviced with shops, schools, and other facilities.	<p>Too much built houses, schools, doctors surgeries cannot cope.</p> <p>Too many houses being built without the services needed e.g. GPs, schools and recreation grounds.</p> <p>Public toilets need improving.</p> <p>Seating needed on Lincoln Road by the Co-op for people walking from Leasingham and Holdingham to the town centre.</p>
Objective 11. Good educational and cultural facilities, accessible to all.	<p>The Advanta Seeds site should be used for a further education college.</p> <p>There is no adult education or training in Sleaford to help people gain new skills.</p>
Objective 12. Housing located, designed, built, and priced to meet the needs of all residents.	<p>Not enough social housing. Affordable houses are not affordable.</p>

<b>Issues outside of the plan</b>	
Issue	Comment
Public footpaths	<p>All public footpaths in and around Sleaford need maintaining regularly.</p> <p>A footbridge is needed to carry the footpath at Northfield Farm, Holdingham over the A17.</p>
Bowling alley	<p>The ground floor of the Corn Exchange should be converted to a six-lane bowling alley with historic games machines and a café for young people.</p>
Cinema	<p>A cinema should be put into the first floor of the Corn Exchange.</p>