

## Ide Neighbourhood Plan

The questionnaire followed by the Exhibition/Forum during the summer proved to be a great success. It has provided the working party with a fund of information about your wishes for the future of the parish. This will be invaluable in helping us with the next stage which is to respond to your thoughts and ideas and begin writing the Neighbourhood Plan. This plan will be a legal document which has to be ratified by Teignbridge District Council and then approved by an Ide Parishioners referendum. Of the 7 topics discussed, housing will provide the backbone of the plan with related areas like green spaces and transport having an influence. Other issues not included may better be dealt with by the Parish Council in due course.

If you missed the exhibition, what has been achieved so far will appear on the parish website and the parish notice board. We welcome further input and feedback at any time via envelopes entitled NPlan to Ide community shop. The following is a brief summary of the 7 topics.

1. **TRANSPORT.** There was much concern about how transport has affected our village - car parking, traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, the school run and Ide's use as a thoroughfare to and from other areas. The related issues of parking and congestion will need careful consideration and residents put forward many ideas about car park sites, parking schemes, yellow lines, dedicated footways for pedestrians, one-way systems and warning lights.
2. **GREEN SPACES.** The responses to green spaces were concerned with keeping valuable assets, refreshing existing spaces and expanding sports facilities. The village green is a well-loved facility that could perhaps be used more frequently and should be free of any structures. The coronation gardens are now an attractive area, a restful haven half way up the High Street that some thought could become a herb garden. Footpaths raised emotional concern especially where dog mess was concerned. Householders need to keep their hedges trimmed back to help keep them clear and also the footpath system could be expanded. Allotments needed greater security and although encroachment by neighbouring weeds was a problem affecting commitment, a new site might be preferable. Sports provision inspired strong views with MUGA's control by the school frustrating community use. The childrens' playground is a neglected area lacking excitement with out-of-date equipment and a need for refreshment. Bigger schemes were also envisaged with a sports pavilion, new football pitch/running track that would go some way to providing adults and children with a venue for evening and weekend activities. The victorian orchard above Station Road was also demonstrated as a suitable project for community use. With the inevitable expansion of the village in the future, many agreed that good open spaces need to be preserved for community use.

3. **Ide School** has seen a great deal of growth in recent years with its change from a First School to Primary status. With this has come the inevitable increase in traffic which attracted the greatest number of concerned comments. People felt that the school was doing a "very good job" and generally involved the community well. There were also requests to develop premises for pre-school.
4. **CHURCHES.** Although comments were not as numerous as other categories, they were generally positive with constructive criticism. St. Idas reported its refurbishment and that apart from its regular services, it is also used by Messy Church, Ide Aloud and hosts other occasional concerts. It welcomes further community activities, the venue providing huge potential being the largest room in the village. Future ideas included a lending library and use by youth groups. The Church's geographical location necessitates better road signs, the graveyard needs some TLC perhaps using a village working party and although the bell ringing attracted a few adverse comments, it was thought they added to the "quintessentially English feel of Ide." It was also felt that the Church Commissioners could be more helpful in making land available to provide more facilities. Thank you Jackie Chadwick on the positive comments on the use of the Chapel.
5. **COMMUNITY SHOP.** The general feeling was that this was an asset to the village. Ideas put forward for improvement included opening hours being increased with just one hour lunchtime closure, a coffee shop in conjunction with the village hall and regular wine tastings with options to buy.
6. **MEMORIAL HALL.** Some suggested it should be renamed Ide Community Hall. The consensus was that the existing hall needed a complete refurbishment with an approved kitchen which could provide meals for the elderly, and also that it needs a double entrance door, the inner door masking the noise for local residents. It should also encourage more activities - e.g. cubs and brownies. The most radical proposal was that it should be sold and rebuilt on Weir Meadow along with a pavilion, sports facilities and parking. Parking for both the shop and hall was deemed to be a problem.
7. **HOUSING & BUSINESSES.** Many residents felt that Ide's infrastructure would be unable to cope with much further development. Within the building line, there is little scope for development with green spaces providing a valuable asset to the community. Affordable housing, despite not being a problem when the last survey was conducted a few years ago, was now considered to be more serious and will have to be addressed. With building land at a premium, even small sympathetic developments would be a challenge. Understandably, there was no wish for major business development, apart from the increase in home workers benefitting from the recent increase in broadband speeds.