



FOCUS GROUP: WOMEN'S GROUPS – 16 April 2009

Composition: Meeting Point; Facilitator: Sue Goddard; Venue 16 Mallard Close

Attendees: Carol Sandom, Hilary Dixon, Maggie Hollidge, Maggie Costin, Ann Oldfield, Ann Brigden

OVERVIEW

1. What do you like about living in Twyford?

- has most things needed for daily live eg. supermarket, essential shops, doctors, schools, within walking distance
- schools are of high standard
- excellent train services and access to road network
- hence can change jobs without the need to move house
- real sense of community and an organisation to satisfy every leisure pursuit
- and if Twyford doesn't have the facility, then access to neighbouring towns is easy.

2. What do you dislike about living in Twyford?

- Lack of library and IT facilities (if school children don't have computer at home, then almost impossible for them to find computer for homework);
- not enough is made of the historic nature of the village – needs museum, town trail, more historic noticeboards, more signposting;
- signs needed from village centre out to surrounding countryside;
- traffic queues at Twyford cross-roads
- lack of cycle paths putting school children's lives in danger
- Police Station should be open daily
- Waitrose car park
 - zoning needed so that large MPVs and 4x4's are separated, as it makes it very difficult for normal cars to leave spaces safely.
 - Middle aisle should be one-way only, from West to East
 - Low-level bollard lighting needed in evening after shop is shut, as customers of restaurants and users of meeting rooms in village centre do need to use it but it is pitch black
 - More cycle racks needed nearer entrance or near pathway to barbers where there is more surveillance.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

3. Are there any other parts of Twyford that need improving?

- Station forecourt and car park
- Old furniture shop in Wargrave Road
- Alleyway alongside new Indian restaurant
- Too much signage, much of it misleading

4. Are there any important views, open spaces, or buildings that we need to protect?

- Views across both sets of allotments
- "Buildings of Traditional Local Character" should include old Post Office , Photographers (formerly Fords and ex Social Hall) in Waltham Rd and silk weavers cottages on N side of High Street.

HOUSING

5. Is there an under-or over-supply of any particular type of housing in the village?

- Lack of starter homes and rental properties
- No more bungalows needed

6. Can your children afford to buy or rent property in the village if they should wish to remain living locally?

- Housing still too expensive, so adult children forced to
 - live with parents
 - move somewhere cheaper like Bracknell or Woodley
 - put off having children

HEALTH SERVICES

7. What are your opinions on health services locally?

- NHS dentist will be welcome. Are all private dentists supposed to take on some NHS patients?
- No obvious chiropodist service in village (some work from home we think)
- Twyford Surgery could publicize their services better eg with a good website, but new longer hours welcome.

FEAR OF CRIME

8. Does fear of crime prevent you from doing anything you really want to do?

- Street lights going out at midnight would be a disaster, making walking home from the station impossible and burglaries will soar.
- Generally don't feel as safe walking around after dark as in the past.

9. How could crime prevention be improved?

- More police needed on the beat
- Police Station should be open daily; should advertise for more volunteers if necessary

SPORT, LEISURE AND CULTURE

10. Are there any additional facilities you think could be provided in Twyford?

- Municipal leisure centre, gym, indoor swimming pool and climbing wall, shared with Piggott School, like Gillott School in Henley
- Can't existing library at least have longer opening hours?

11. Do we make enough of our cultural heritage and if not, what changes should we make?

- No, but see under 'dislikes'

TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

12. How could we reduce the number of traffic accidents (show map)?

- Many of them are at entrances to village, so need gateway features on Wargrave Rd, Old Bath Rd, Waltham Rd and London Rd but **no extra signage**; instead have imitation gate features, floral planting, and rumble strip or just red strip across road. This would all reinforce 30mph limit.
- 20mph speed limit right in village centre
- Yellow lines needed on Waltham Road adjacent to Stanlake Meadow as parking has started here again.
- Station commuters are parking now in Wessex Gardens and using FP down to Hurst Road, so need single yellow lines
- Pedestrian crossing needed at BP garage for Piggott children.

13. Do you have enough information about public transport and if not, would you know where to obtain it?

- The comprehensive WBC booklet needs much wider publicity (could the library or Waitrose stock it?)

14. Will the loss of travel tokens mean you travel less by rail and more by bus?

- Perhaps but not much change as rail is just so much better.

- 15. What would encourage you to use public transport more?**
- Distribute tokens again to over 60's.
- 16. What would reduce the use of the car for the school run?**
- More cycle paths, especially to Piggott and especially from the south of the village
 - Can there not be green strips for cyclists at the front of the queues at the traffic lights
- 17. Could the village centre be made more pedestrian friendly?**
- More bollards to prevent parking on pavements in London Road
 - 20mph speed limit in shopping area

SHOPPING

- 18. Would you like to have more shops and services in the village centre and if so, what?**
- Idea of temporary lease of vacant shop eg. Village Lunchbox as a village drop in centre very popular. Could have book swaps, toy swaps, advertise for volunteers etc