**West Wittering Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation 2017.**

**Attended**: Ray Lewis – Parish Council, Bill Buckland – Parish Council,

Alix Beale – Sculptor, Guy Osmond Jones –Arborologist, Francesca Walton – New Waves Box, Richard Shrubb – Wicks Farm Holiday Park

**SWOT** - Help to inform and shape the future.

Analysis for local business.

**What do you think are the main STRENGTHS and ADVANTAGES of West Wittering for local business?**

Pub – Need to preserve

Reasonably affluent area, close to Chichester and the well know East Head and beaches.

It’s a good tourist destination serviced by excellent local shops; schools etc., but is it sustainable with the constant new builds?

Glad to see tennis courts etc.

More safe cycling might help take some local cars off the road.

Harbour

Beach

Environment

The beach, walks, the peninsula, Itchenor, Birdham, Appledram, Bosham etc.

A fairly prospering community.

Diversity of tourist accommodation.

The beach

The countryside

Chichester

Theatre

The environment

Strengths - Beach, Chichester Harbour, cycle routes, walks, accommodation, café, pub, shops and village character.

New facilities are also proving to be popular – tennis courts and gym equipment.

The beach and beautiful areas to ride or walk etc.

**What factors do you think are DISADVANTAGES or HOLD BACK the development of business in West Wittering?**

Lack of accommodation for workers.

Inaccurate weather forecast during the week (prior to weekends)

Lack of business hub – conference facility

Loss of pubs

Community notice boards West / East

Arts centre please

Lack of parking in village – consumers go to Chichester or East Wittering and don’t shop here. The cost of parking at the beach deters visitors from staying/returning and/or cause severe disruption with illegal or selfish parking. Local residents without parking need resident parking spaces in the village as opposed to all the parking being time restricted.

The volume of traffic.

Resident numbers continue to rise and infrastructure can’t cope.

The roads are blocked and should there be a serious emergency, it would be chaos.

Refusal to allow more static caravans on existing parks.

Need for more diverse rental accommodation – lodges.

Too many cars using the beach not parking there but in front of the shops, along the roads, land, private roads etc. The village cannot take what it did last summer, gridlocked from here to Chichester. You cannot have a larger beach park as the roads do not take the vehicles in or out of Wittering fast

enough as they are too small. There could be a better outlet on to the A27 a special lane, maybe.

Traffic delays making travelling for the business extremely slow, consuming valuable time. It’s a real problem.

It’s too seasonal even though there are more residential dwellings.

Infrastructure – congestion on the roads.

Parking – closure of pub. There is call for it to be open all day for both visitors and locals as a hub in the village within walking distance. Constantly asked by visitors where to eat drink and get coffee. Organisations and walking groups would like to use it as a meeting point / end destination. I have heard groups change plans to different destinations because of it being closed.

The re-development of the beach café would also bring more winter visitors.

It would be great to have a central event notice board or one either end of the village to help businesses inform locals of events or classes etc and for locals to use for any events or information

The roads, when busy people get stuck in traffic and cancel lessons last minute or if I advertise stables a couple of people have declined as they don’t want to get stuck in traffic on the way to do the horses.

**Summary of issues and concerns (backed with evidence)**

Christmas tree?

**Other Comments:**

**What might be the effect on your business of the following?**

***Development of more housing to rent, If POSITIVE, What type?***

Affordable

It would only be positive if people renting are affluent with disposable income.

More houses, more people may want to ride.

***Development of more housing to buy, if POSITIVE, What type?***

Family

It would only be positive if the housing attracted younger people opposed to older people ‘down-sizing’

Possible use of local shop services

More houses, more people may want to ride. (same as above).

*Negative comment – sadly most homes are 2nd homes and the village is very quiet.*

***More places to stay, if YES, What type?***

Diverse, glamping, budget hotel.

4 Star and hotels

Bed and Breakfast (2 commented)

Alternative Hotels & B & B’s

Link to Selsey

***More local places to eat and drink***

Just having a village pub is much more important than simply having a restaurant.

Village has no pub or meeting point

***How often is your business working at full operational capacity?***

**High season only, Easter to August Bank Holiday -** Weekends June to August and School Holidays

**Other –** Bank holidays and August

**Comments made on questionnaire**

**Local road congestion:**

Traffic jams

**A27:**

 If improved position

Too many traffic jams

**Rail service to Chichester**:

 There is none

**Evening bus service:**

 Could run later

**Public tours:**

 What public tours?

**Churches:**

Positive - Marginally engenders good community sprit

**Goodwood motor events:**

 Positive – Very marginally