

The Future of Winsford

Issue No. 4



Greetings from Winsford 2027

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS ON DRAFT VISION AND KEY THEMES

Following the first stage of community consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan a draft vision for Winsford and key themes for the plan were produced. These initial ideas were then tested at two residents' evening workshops – on 24 April in Over and on 1 May in Wharton.

The workshops underlined how much residents value the Flashes and the river Weaver and see the waterside as an asset that should be developed sensitively for the benefit of the whole town. There was a clear view that the heart needs to be put back into the town by strengthening the centre with new development in preference to development on the edge of town. Vacant old buildings, especially ones of heritage value like some on the old High Street, should be re-used, and a wider range of leisure facilities, particularly evening attractions like restaurants, cultural uses and activities for young people, should be encouraged.

In the light of the comments and feedback received so far a draft Neighbourhood Plan is now being prepared. This will include some options for the future of Winsford, in terms of the location, scale and nature of new development.

A second intensive phase of community consultation will then be arranged from the end of July to find out what local people think of the draft plan and the various options.

THE ONLY TOWN YOU'LL EVER NEED

With work on the Neighbourhood Plan now moving to the next stage, it was with great anticipation that the Town Council invited all the primary school children in Winsford to enter the Winsford 2027 Postcard Competition.

Children were asked to do three things - draw a picture of the town they would like Winsford to become by 2027, the end of the 15 year plan period, create a title or slogan, and produce a logo for the Neighbourhood Plan.

139 entries were received and we're pleased to announce the winners in this edition of the Future of Winsford Newsletter. The judges were members of Winsford Town Council's neighbourhood plan steering group.

Winner of the image category was Abbey Palfreyman of St Chad's C of E Primary School, with a colourful and eye-catching picture which captured an idea several people mentioned in the formal public consultation – the development of the riverside and the Flashes for leisure purposes. Abbey's picture is at the head of this newsletter.

For the title, or slogan, Amber Leigh Vernon, also of St Chad's, came up with a memorable phrase that the judges thought neatly summarised the ambitions of the neighbourhood plan – The Only Town You'll Ever Need.



The winner of the logo category was Kye Dalton of Greenfields Primary School, who created a bold and striking symbol of the town in the form of a big W, laced with an "o" pattern - Wow Winsford!

There were many other good entries and the Town Council would like to thank all the children who took part. We will be looking to use some of the other images and phrases, as well as the winning entries, in the Neighbourhood Plan itself.

A SURVEY AT WINSFORD ACADEMY

To find out what students, teachers and support staff at the Academy think about the future of the town, we worked with the Principal and the Personal Best group of pupils at Winsford Academy to design a questionnaire.

Exactly 100 responses were received and the key points which emerged were

- Over 70% of the Academy respondents thought that it is important to provide better social, community and leisure facilities, to improve the image and attractiveness of Winsford, and to improve employment and business opportunities.
- Over 70% thought that the most important things that could be done to make Winsford a better town are to provide a better variety of shops, to improve Winsford's image, to bring the Civic Hall back into use, to update the town, to provide more restaurants and cafes, and to provide more youth clubs.
- 75% thought that Winsford has a litter problem.
- 81% said there is not enough to do in Winsford.
- 82% said there are not enough parks in Winsford.

These results support the views expressed by many people at the first stage of formal public consultation. New points emerging were the need for more parks and for more sports and leisure activities particularly for young people.

We are grateful for the help and support given by the Principal of Winsford Academy, Andy Taylor-Edwards, in carrying out this survey.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

To keep up to date with the Winsford Neighbourhood Plan visit the Town Council's website - www.winsford.gov.uk

You can also get in touch with us via twitter - @WinsfordNP - or via facebook.

