

Summary of discussion with Sam Dix 29.7.15

Having shared the Evidence Base Review Summary submitted by James Croucher, I spoke with Sam to discuss the recommendations regarding gaps in evidence as follows:

James highlighted the following areas as potential gaps and requiring further evidence gathering:

a) car parking pressure points and potential solutions

James had suggested we may wish to employ a Highways Consultant to carry out a robust parking survey.

Sam responded as follows:

MKC have a Parking Standards survey which contains some ward level data which will be released in approximately two weeks, this can be used as a basis to begin with. Unless we are planning on designating an area for major parking such as a multi-storey (which we aren't) Sam does not believe we need to hire a consultant as the evidence base does not need to be that detailed for a Neighbourhood Plan.

I mentioned our discussions around additional 'shared parking' for sites to accommodate school parking, such as discussed with the Head Teachers and could include identifying sites such as the MKCF land for such purposes etc. Sam believed this can be proposed in a policy with minimal evidence - anecdotal is good enough. Sam also said we could draft a policy and then ask one of their Highways Engineers to act as a friendly critic, without incurring more expense.

b) open space, sport & recreation

The MKC strategy is very old and according to James, patently needs updating – it also has little mention of the open space around Walton.

Sam is doing some checking around this, but similarly states the evidence does not need to be arduous. Anecdotal evidence of community need and expressions to wish to "protect" existing open space is acceptable evidence. This is also backed up by the results of the consultation.

c) rights of way, key pedestrian routes & desire lines

James has suggested a Rights of way appraisal could provide the supporting evidence to identify the location of pedestrian routes and desire lines and specification policy in the NP. In addition it would also identify where any additional rights of way were required

I discussed with Sam the issues that have been highlighted such as at Walton Manor and the V10 crossing etc – and how we wish to ensure any future development maintains the original aims of MK in terms of footpaths, redways etc. Sam has suggested a simple way would be for us as a group (or identified individuals) to simply walk the area, take a map, highlight any potential desire lines, paths to protect, proposed paths etc

d) healthcare

James has suggested a Healthcare Capacity Study is needed and could easily be compiled – listing GP's , dentists etc in the area, list current and potential capacity. It could also highlight any potential sites for expansion or future build locations

Sam has been issued with capacity data (in his role with the Site Allocations document) which lists patients per square metre and a rating of where there are needs. As soon as he has the go ahead he will share this as a starting point.

e) Employment

James is liaising with MKC over the recently completed Employment Land Study

Sam confirmed this document is imminent to go public and will provide the evidence we need.

f) Future community facility needs

An assessment is needed to review the existing community facilities and to see if these can provide for future needs or whether they can be expanded to meet future need. The assessment could also highlight what future need could not be met through future planning gain.

I discussed with Sam a process I have been involved with previously which assessed on the basis of:

- Status of the building in terms of structure, upkeep etc (CAT may provide this)
- Existing and capacity data usage, both peak and off-peak (generally if used 75% + during peak times, this can be classified as at or near capacity)
- Compare activities being provided with the results of the consultation for future need/wishes