

Charlton Society Discussion

Save Our Village Action Plan

Workshop Notes

February 15th 2020

Following a photographic presentation of the Village Action Plan Report the assembled company divided into four workshops each discussing a separate element of the Action Plan.

- Traffic & signage:
- Car Parking
- Traders
- Place making

Traffic & Signage

- there was general agreement with the proposals within the Village Action Plan document.
- introduce Speed smiley face signs.
- improve links between Charlton Athletic and the Village.
- investigate sponsorship ties between Charlton Athletic and Charlton Village.
- produce a map of the village.
- reduce the number of signs and general street clutter.
- exclude large vehicles.

Car Parking

i. Assembly Rooms car parks

- determine whether they are for use for shoppers or commuters?
- pinch points need to be addressed, as currently too tight.
- lack of lighting, the area feels unsafe.
- parking layout needs to be redesigned.
- concern that the council will start to charge for parking when redesigned.
- it was suggested that some electric car power points could be installed.

ii. Volume of traffic

- concern expressed that too many large vehicles are travelling through the village.
- queried the possibility of placing a weight registration (restriction?) for vehicles.
- Woodhill was referenced as a hotspot for too-large vehicles.
- concern that the new flats being built at the Charlton Church Lane end of Fletching Road will put further pressure on traffic volume.

iii. Introduce a cycle highway

iv. Introduction of red parking lines through village

(Linda Perks stated at the meeting that this was not possible and had already been investigated).

Traders

- establish a Traders Association.
- improve the appearance of the shops. The Charlton Pharmacy had been in the Village for 100 years. They suggested bright lights.
- the betting shop has closed down; has the demographic pattern of the Village and surrounds changed.
- more cafes.
- introduce something aimed at young people.
- don't assume that planting trees is a catch-all improvement. Consider aromatic plants.
- improve the Christmas lights.
- install CCTV to improve safety in the Village.
- show the Village is loved.
- the workshop supported the following suggestions in the VAP document:
 - o Fred Styles house bringing 38 additional homes
 - o Improvement of the service roads – Fletching Road & Torrance Close.
 - o Family residences
 - o Improved car parks.

Place Making

- create a design for the Village as a whole.
- Earle House: need a design for the whole area to create a 'place' / 'market area' (why were the council flats named Earle House – who was Earle. Who owns them?)
- bring the side garden of Earle House into the reconfiguration of Earle Place.
- the public footpath in front of the Summer House was considered dangerous.
- Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust was considering an entrance to Charlton House through the wall behind the Summer House. This would require the involvement of Historic England.
- connect Earle Place with St. Luke's Church visually and with a raised speed platform.
- Charlton Church Lane; make the entrance to the Village a left-turn only. It was recognized this might cause traffic delays.
- what is causing the closure of so many shops on the north side?
- revise the street lighting.
- Lansdowne Place: needs landscaping; possibly include an artwork similar to Oscar Wilde statue opposite Charing Cross station; an avenue of trees; a mural.
- planting in the beds needs to reflect the changes in climate, require less watering.
- the group opposed the installation of stand-alone city public toilets.
- approved uplifting the look of the village by installing York stone paving.
- Christmas decorations need a co-ordinated approach, involve the traders.
- ensure the Village remains a friendly place for pedestrians and cyclists. It was noted that Waltham Forest has a 7/5 ton limit for vehicles travelling through.
- advertise the Village's conservation area through illuminated signs.
- investigate the Mayor's Fund to improve shop fronts.
- the proposal for Transport for London (TfL) to close the Charlton Lane Level Crossing would increase traffic through the Village. One member thought the closure a good idea.

- Cllr Linda Perks thought a one way Level Crossing could be useful. There had been a lot of complaints from residents about the level of traffic along Charlton Lane and Floyd Road.

It was noted that the TfL consultation on the Super Highway along Woolwich Road closes on the 16th March 2020.

Carol Kenna
Charlton Society
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