

Stamford Vision: Business

Notes from the meeting of 1.06.06 (NB meeting of 4.05.06 was cancelled)

1. LDF

Mike Sibthorp attended from SKDC to talk about the current planning situation. The core documents for the LDF need to be in place by 2007 and currently SKDC are working through a number of steps which need to be taken before these are agreed. The key issues will be open for debate in the consultation which is due to begin at the end of June 2006. Primarily it will be a chance to comment on both the housing and employment land allocation. The LDF will run until 2021 with annual monitoring.

Housing allocation: Housing requirements have been met through current permissions until 2021 in Stamford, Bourne and the Deepings (considered together for this purpose).

However, the figures may be altered as the regional picture changes, it is possible that this part of South Kesteven may be included in the growth area around Peterborough.

Employment allocation: SKDC have proposals which were drawn up following a report received from Savills which looked at the distribution of available employment sites district-wide. In Stamford's case their conclusion was that the west of the town is a more logical place for growth than the east. This has, therefore, reopened the debate about the land adjoining Tinwell and Empingham roads, as well including land near Carpenter's lodge for the first time for consideration. SKDC's strategy is to secure deliverable sites as previous allocations have yet to emerge on the ground as real opportunities.

Stamford Vision Business group can contribute to the debate by providing a position statement on user requirements and user demand. **At the next meeting we will debate this so please bring evidence to back up any thoughts you may have.** We can of course include some of the data from our business surveys.

2. Benchmarking

The Welland benchmarking project is now underway across the 14 towns in the area.

- The pilot for the User Satisfaction Survey took place in Stamford over Easter. The results were shared and the 'headlines' are attached below.
- The spring footfall counts are now completed.

Next meeting **Thursday 6.7.06**

Visitor survey April 2006: Headline findings

150 questionnaires were completed on the 2 Friday's before and after Easter.

- Over 90% questioned came from PE9
- Over ¾ of visitors were visiting to shop (great majority of those non food)
- 85% stayed for 2 hours or less
- Over 90% visited at least weekly
- 56% came into town on foot or cycle, 42% by car, including taxi
- Nearly ¼ voted Stamford's appearance as its best feature (with a further 9% mentioning its historic nature/ atmosphere), followed by 15% valuing the choice of shops/ restaurants/ nightlife, 13% rating the town's friendliness, 10% remarking on pedestrianisation and linked to this 9% praising its accessibility.