

Coventry – The next 20 years
Developing Coventry's
Sustainable Community Strategy

Consultation event for
members of Coventry CEN

Saturday 19th January 2008,
Methodist Central Hall,
Warwick Lane Coventry

Consultation
Outcomes Report

Report produced by Quest Associates
Independent process design and facilitation consultants
www.questnet.co.uk Tel: 02476413163 enquiries@questnet.co.uk

Introduction and methodology

The session had two key aims:

- to brief members of Coventry Community Empowerment on the draft Strategy
- to encourage comments and feedback on the contents of the draft strategy

Ros Roke of the Coventry Partnership introduced the Consultation draft.

Following questions and answers for clarification, participants in groups of 6-8 then considered the 10 key themes and made comments on the following aspects:

- 1) the overall theme
- 2) the long-term objectives
- 3) the short-term priorities

Groups were then asked to formulate a **key message** related to the theme for feedback to the Coventry Partnership

At the end of this process all participants looked at all the themes and added additional comments/suggestions:

Comments on the themes

All comments have been transcribed directly from the comments written on the workboards during the session.

Theme 1: A prosperous Coventry with a good choice of jobs and business opportunities for all the city's residents...

Theme

- *Encourage manufacturing industry*
- *High value jobs to be created*
- *Jobs in Coventry do not match aspirations*

Long-term Outcomes

- *More affordable homes to buy and rent*

Short-term Priorities

- *Need to encourage vocational training and apprenticeships*
- *Maximise existing skills*

Key Message

- *High quality employment, attracting people to settle in the city*

Further Suggestions

- *At present skills of newcomers (refugees) are often wasted*

Theme 2: People of Coventry living longer, healthier, independent lives...

Comments on theme

- *Holistic approach to everything*

Long-term Outcomes

- *Walk not ride*
- *Retain recreation areas*
- *Start at school*
- *Affordable activities within the community*

Short-term Priorities

- *Separate clinics/day centres for disease support groups*
- *Get away from fast food*
- *Encourage activities*
- *Outlets to display more healthy foods*
- *Start from scratch on basics (can children cook?)*
- *Increase no smoking campaign*
- *Promotion of education in schools and local areas*
- *Cuts on over-prescribing*

Key Message

- *Excellent over all*

Further Suggestions

- *More of these activity/leisure in local community*

Theme 3: A safer and more confident Coventry

Long-term Outcomes

- *Prevent - not just reduce*
- *More effective support for victims*
- *Monitor violent crime reduction*
- *Reduce fear of crime*

Short-term Priorities

- *Tackle drugs and alcohol problems through education*
- *Reduce rowdiness not reduce reporting*
- *Provision of rehab for offenders of other crimes e.g. sex offences*
- *Encourage reporting of all crimes*
- *Reduce all violent crime*
- *Improve environmental issues - e.g. lighting/line of vision*
- *Reduce fear of crime*
- *Victim support - effectively for those mentally and physically affected*

- *Engage local people in all procedures*
- *Reduce all anti-social behaviour and increase all reporting*
- *Design out crime at planning stage - housing and open spaces*
- *Support for children re anti-social behaviour and bullying*
- *Employer involvement and support*
- *Assist older people, disabled people etc to report crime*
- *Discourage drunks and yobbos off the streets*
- *Make parents more responsible*
- *Zero tolerance*

Key Message

- *Democratic accountability, zero tolerance and prevention*

Further Suggestions

- *Young offenders should be made to work i.e. litter clearance*

Theme 4: Making Coventry's streets, neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces attractive and enjoyable places to be...

Comments on Theme

- *Yes, we're in agreement!*

Long-term Outcomes

- *Protection of green belt*
- *Uncertainty of growth - we'd rather keep green spaces than too many houses*
- *Putting environmental impact as a priority when considering new builds*
- *More public say on developers plans to build*
- *Don't build on the flood plain*

Short-term Priorities

- *Health and safety and anti-social behaviour issues tackled by rangers*
- *ALL newbuild houses being eco-houses not just Electric Wharf*
- *Adventure playgrounds for older children - and clubhouses in parks*
- *Flooding disaster management improved*
- *More fair taxing to contribute back into communities. Eco-taxes for not recycling*
- *Incentives for recycling*
- *Cycle lanes everywhere!*
- *We like the idea in strategy about leaving some brown-field spaces*
- *Green money ring fenced*
- *Subsidies for green building and green fuels*

Key Message

- *Yes - we agree fully with the theme but will need a lot of continuous effort and resources to achieve outcomes*

Further Suggestions

- *Litter is disgraceful in Coventry*
- *Regular cleaning of side streets i.e. groves and cul-de-sacs*
- *Make international airport more eco-friendly*
- *Proper community sports stadium*
- *Eco-friendly themed fun park*
- *Both adults and young people need to be educated about going green*
- *We need a greater sense of urgency on all aspects*

Theme 5: Ensuring that children and young people are safe and enjoy, achieve and make a positive contribution to Coventry

Comments on Theme

- *Sounds lovely but can it be achieved*
- *Regardless of postcode. To be added*
- *Health is not in theme. Why?*
- *Will work only ensuring provision. Add this point*
- *Why no equivalent focus on the elderly?*
- *Must ensure voice of young people informs the plan*

Long-term Outcomes

- *Develop peer networks - encourages support*
- *Funding a variety of ways to educate children and young people to raise their potential (amongst under achievers)*
- *Raising awareness from young age of dangers of drug abuse*
- *For families to be 'supportive' they need support themselves, as well as opportunity to develop their own lives*
- *More learning to take place between schools - good practice sharing*
- *Variety - curriculum learning does not have to be at a desk in school*
- *Additional support to communities to support non English speakers*

Short-term Priorities

- *Make provision family friendly - hard to get kids in provision for only a few hours*
- *Support single parent families so that they can work and get child to nursery*

- *Play schemes not long enough in summer and for years 7/8 as well - affordable*
- *Communities to take active role in extended schools that can be measured*
- *Develop opportunities for more volunteers*
- *Better wrap around facility that is affordable*
- *Better advertise family parenting courses*
- *Don't make parenting classes feel like you are not good enough!*
- *More joined up care for L.A.C.*
- *Support for visiting uni students to integrate with the community which may encourage them to stay*
- *Create opportunities for different groups to mix and breakdown barriers*
- *Educate the next generation to get involved with local democracy*
- *Raise awareness about the good work already being done*

Key Message

- *Respect children and young peoples' views in developing this theme*

Further suggestions

- *Children should be encouraged to listen and respect elders*

Theme 6: A good choice of housing to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Coventry ...

Comments on Theme

- *This is what we need*

Long-term Outcomes

- *Good stock of social housing*
- *Thinking ahead for housing for growing population*
- *Register of houses with disabled facilities*
- *Every estate to have mixed cultural facilities*
- *Housing suitable for everyone's needs - in-built facilities*
- *Communal/Housing spaces to meet people/social*
- *Community hating (flats and not single heating)*
- *For all generations (semi-sheltered)*
- *Larger houses for bigger families*

Short-term priorities

- *Disability facilities*
- *More control over private landlord housing - up to standards*
- *Existing houses to improve up to living standards*

- *Who's going to pay for energy housing?*
- *Stop garden grabbing and paving front gardens*

Key Message

- *More mixed sized housing/energy efficient*

Further Suggestions

- *Could disabled housing be put into the Home Choice base letting*
- *Encourage older people living in large family homes to downsize*

Theme 7: Making places and services easily accessible for Coventry people...

Long-term Outcomes

- *Clarify statement reduction of travel?*
- *Discussion on route planning*
- *Efficient integrated transport system*
- *Quality of service*
- *More room for seating*
- *Reduce emissions replace with new power system*

Short-term Priorities

- *Adhere to timetables*
- *Influence on conditions of service*
- *Produce more timetables*
- *Driver knowledge of route*
- *Trained staff better ability*
- *More bike lanes on more roads*
- *Consult local people for bus routes*
- *Ensure buses got to peoples work places*
- *Print timetables in local press*
- *Educate motorists about cyclists*
- *Encourage more children to cycle*

Key Messages

- *Efficient integrated transport systems*

Theme 8: A creative, active and vibrant Coventry

Comments on Theme

- *Theme aim good could include term friendly*

Long-term Outcomes

- *Overall long-term outcomes correct ones*
- *Think Coventry is good at present for sport and culture*

- *Second outcome to include sporting facilities and maintenance thereof*

Short-term Priorities

- *Last point - focus on community based - not just priority neighbourhoods*
- *Endorse increased sport and physical activities*
- *Priority one:- emphasise community based (presumption city centre only)*
- *Provide more activities and facilities for older age groups in city centre (and all ages)*
- *Increased use of current (accessible) facilities and all including community centres*
- *Better use of Coventry Culture and Leisure Department. Proactive comms. Facilities are available*
- *Increase participation consider implication "no ball game signs"*
- *Equality state all children and look at needs do not separate looked after or BME*
- *Problem of fear crime and anti-social behaviour on activity*

Key Message

- *Needs of communities/location of activities specifically*

Theme 9: A more equal Coventry with cohesive communities and neighbourhoods...

Comments on Theme

- *Theme aim okay*

Long-term Outcomes

- *People will be able to influence quality of services and be effectively involved*
- *There will be more equal opportunities access to funding and services*
- *The community voice will be heard and listened to*
- *More equal opportunities for people from all areas as well as different backgrounds*
- *Long term ongoing support for community achievement*
- *Recognition of community role in making Coventry a more equal and cohesive city*

Short-term Priorities

- *Develop community engagement strategy in partnership with Coventry people*
- *Ensure short term priorities to all include "in partnership with the community" please*

- *Grants for hard to heat homes - all areas*
- *Provision of free access to English language tuition - to provide equality of opportunity*
- *Plain English please!*
- *Include "meaningful community involvement"*
- *Equal opportunities for all - no post code discrimination*

Key Message

- *Develop in partnership with the community and state this - people will "be" able to rather than "feel"*

Theme 10: Improving Coventry's environment and tackling climate change...

Comments on Theme

- *Generally in agreement*

Long-term Outcomes

- *Education training*
- *Being more creative e.g. "absorbent surfaces"*
- *Joined up thinking and help for the bigger picture*
- *Allocation of more resources*
- *Controls on impact of property alterations*
- *Encourage walking and cycling etc. for everyone*
- *Detrimental effect of growth in missiles/rockets/aircraft/travel on the environment*

Short-term Priorities

- *Raising awareness*
- *Cutting out waste*
- *Recycling is essential*

Key Message

- *Climate change impacts everyone keep thinking green*

Final Messages from participants

At the end of the session Participants were invited to offer any final messages/comments on any aspect of the plan and consultation.

These have been transcribed and sorted into broad categories, as follows:

Involvement

- *Strategies should be inclusive of all age groups*
- *You need to involve residents and do what they ask you to do*

- *To ensure this strategy works and remains relevant it is important to involve the community throughout (community means all ages and backgrounds)*
- *Get communities involved EARLIER - apart from that GREAT - you're doing a good job - WELL DONE!!*
- *Listening to people and taking action*
- *Overall themes good but make sure practicalities include all Coventry people and all areas*
- *Local community partnership involvement. Listen to the community and take action from it*

Implementation and Future

- *All parts of the strategy should involve "joined up thinking" and should not be departmental*
- *More accountability*
- *The sustainable community strategy should ensure all the communities of Coventry for which it is being developed are able to influence the quality of services and be involved - and also ensure outcomes are monitored including by the recipients of those services etc.*
- *Holistic application of all the ten elements of the strategy and hold a yearly REVIEW conference/meeting to monitor progress*
- *Remember this is a proposal and will possibly be modified by future generations*
- *This strategy is a living, evolving strategy. As this progresses, it should evolve and look past the twenty years*
- *What happens if change of government*
- *Long term planning not to be influenced by political change as this wastes money*
- *Planners need to keep control of all aspects - especially environment - and make sure areas are not left without community facilities - the city centre is not the be all for everything*

Finances

- *The aspirations are excellent if they are affordable - can we afford them*
- *Training and awareness of budgeting and debt*
- *Ring fence funding*
- *Endeavour to fix costing etc.*
- *There should be a section devoted to explaining the financial aspects. Who's paying for all this!*

Suggested additional themes

- *Despite some references mainly in health section there should be a theme for older people*

- *The ten key themes, are, if you like, the foundation of a great city. I think they cover all of the needs of the people except that we have not catered for "spiritual needs". Should this be an eleventh theme??*

General comments

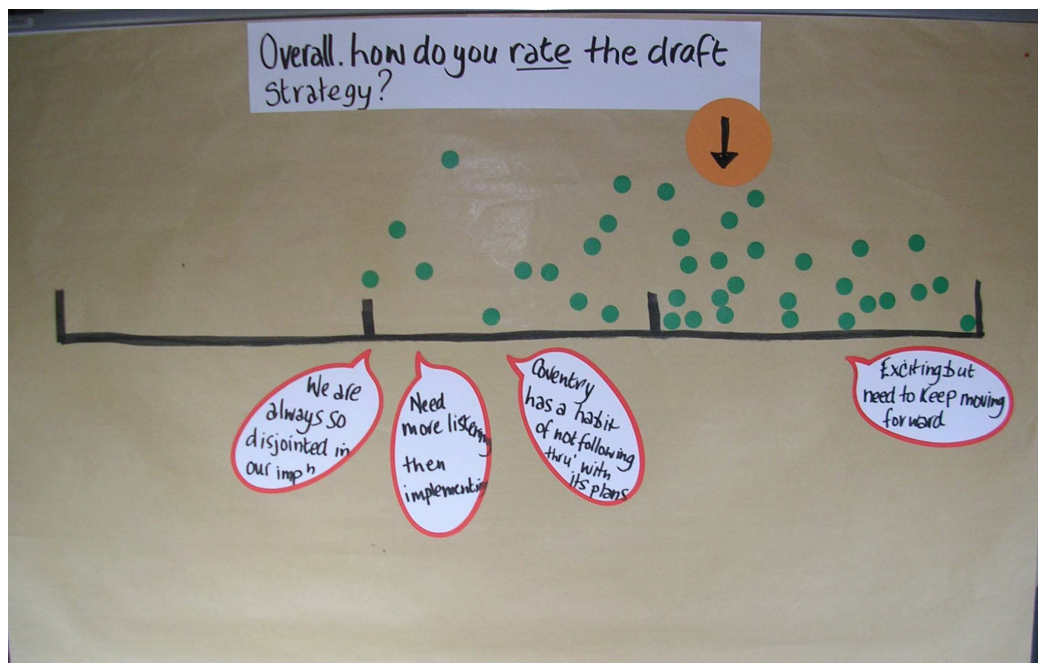
- *Very interesting - I really feel quite excited about the future - just hope it can be achieved.*
- *Good overall discussion, a lot of variety of ideas. Some assumptions challenged and also additions made.*
- *Aspirational and can be achieved*
- *Excellent day all round. Useful info achieved. Good luck to everyone*

Other comments

- *Will it work?*
- *How do we overcome the dominant power of politics and the MEDIA controlling our lives?*

Overall, how do you rate the draft strategy?

Participants were given a stick dot and invited to indicate their views on the overall strategy. A photograph of the board appears below.



End

Quest/Juby/25/01/08