



Youth  
Parish  
Council

**M3 Community  
Partnership**



# **RESULTS OF THE M3CP PUBLIC MEETING WORKSHOP HELD IN MARTOCK SCHOOL ON 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

*The aim of the evening was to explain briefly the workings of Making the Most of Martock Community Partnership (M3CP) and then discuss in a workshop environment how best to take forward key issues for inclusion in the Local Community Plan 2011-2016*

## **The Key Issues**

**Older People**

**Youth**

**Environmental Issues**

**Businesses in Martock**

**Housing**

**Traffic/Highways**

**Local Community Survey**

**Crazy Ideas**

The results shown on pages 2-11 are just part of the process to produce the revised Local Community Plan to be published in April 2011. The next step is to distribute the Local Community Survey in October 2010

## **Older People Facilitator - Jen Symonds**

- Survey Old versus Young and balance the resources
- Exercise classes, yoga, walking for pleasure and for company (improve footpaths)
- Set up a Grannies' Network for young mums who are away from family
- Give canaries to older people. By keeping the canary warm (and alive) they will keep themselves warm too
- Consider the appointment system at the GP Practice. It is unfriendly to older people (2 notes to this effect)
- Set up a befrienders' network. Old to young for such as babysitting  
Young to old for support and companionship
- Involve younger and older generations and encourage them to mix together to have tea and coffee mornings, crafts and knitting groups. Also get together at Christmas in old peoples' homes to write cards etc
- Set up and Active Living Centre
- More activities (e.g. lunches, socials and coffee) not based around the churches but held in places like the Parish Hall and School
- Promote existing events such as the Young at Heart Group run by the Christian Fellowship
- Set up an advocacy service for older people who need help to fight for their rights

**Youth  
Facilitator – Claire Cruwys**

No issues

## **The Environment Facilitator – Elizabeth Powell**

### Urban Environment

- Smarten up the trading estate (tell businesses that there will be a “tidy up the estate” week and see what happens)
- Improve state of pavements (eg, East Street pavements are very narrow and uneven which results in many people preferring to walk in the road)
- Ensure that people maintain their hedges which are often overhanging paths (re comment above) and also ensure that footpaths are properly maintained (eg, ensure that farmers do not put electric fences over footpaths, plant crops right up to edge etc)
- Improve kerbside collections to include plastics
- Improve litter collection
- Consider planting trees and shrubs in suitable places in Martock, particularly on or near to the estates

### Rural Environment & Conservation

- Put an article/advert in The Leveller inviting footpath users to tidy up their favourite footpath
- Create or update footpath leaflets
- Develop Parrett/Yeo/Hurst Brook as environmental ways
- Establish Environmental Group with aim of developing wildlife trails (eg, along Hurst Brook)
- Control of Himalayan Balsam along the banks of the Parrett is becoming essential. It is so invasive that is causing unessential waterflow to come to a halt – will greatly increase the likelihood of flooding unless brought under control **soon**. A plan for doing this should be addressed in conjunction/partnership with other parishes along the river, together with the environment agency etc

### Ideas & Comments

- Set up working party to work on traffic problems

- We have received many, many requests for WC facilities on the Rec from our Sunbeams (mums and tots), families who regularly visit the Rec and Archies Xtra Youth (Angie Brett, Chairman Trustees MCF)
- Having been actively involved with Somerset Community Food for the last year, suggest looking at the interest for a community growing project (MCF would support)
- Allotment for the Youth Club
- Look at developing new (smaller) allotment spaces (would tie in with above two comments) – eg, approach National Trust to develop something in the garden of The Treasurer’s House (with support from NT)
- Complaint from couple about *“loss of use of Market House as a meeting place for groups such as history group (due to large table, use as office etc) and also that disabled lift is used as storage which precludes it being used for people with disability. This is shocking considering the large amount of money that was spent on it”*.

**Businesses in Martock**  
**Facilitators – Roger Powell and Tom Walsh**

- Industrial estate – prize for best kept unit
- Offer a grant to any industrial unit that wants to plant a garden/shrubs around its unit
- Utilising empty buildings
- Cut business rates for shops. I know a business that moved out of the beautiful (dying) town centre to an industrial unit because of rates
- Lobby parliament re taxation of business premises. Mixed hereditaments (living over the shop) used to pay half domestic and half business rates. Now they pay full business rates and full Council Tax, and cannot afford both
- Improve the shopping experience here
- Would not one, larger, better stocked store (ie. a bigger Co-op) be a better option than two smaller shops, one of which seems doomed to continual failure?
- Martock has improved – what are businesses doing about the town centre? – empty shops and high rents – makes low morale and no employment
- George Inn – name and shame the landlord (publish in Western Gazette) – you have approached them to reduce rent – put it in the Leveller – announce how you are trying as Parish Council

**Housing**  
**Facilitators - Ann and Douglas Campbell**

No Issues

**Traffic/Highways  
Facilitator – Patrick Palmer**

- Sort out empty House on North Street. Eyesore/poor advert/a home!!!
- Satnavs, District Council coord where they go on B roads
- We need a better major road to take heavy lorries off North Street
- Are travellers through Martock aware that the precinct car park is free?
- Martock Bus service. Need a bus service back to Martock on a Fri/Sat after 10pm. Also one Sunday Service
- The school buses don't stop on the allocated bus stops, they stop in the middle of the road and it is dangerous for us to cross to get to the bus when cars are trying to drive
- Stop the heavy traffic coming through Ash. These companies should move from Western Avenue to Bower Hinton site.
- 20 MPH through village?
- We need a gun for traffic control in Martock
- Public buses on a Sunday?
- Alternative route for heavy lorries – not down Church Street or North Street
- Need a weight limit restriction sign off A303 to force heavy lorries to come into Martock via Stoke's Road and not Bower Hinton and likewise at Brooke's Garage so as to direct them along Stokes Road.
- County Council need to reconsider slip road designs off Stoke Road onto A303 eastbound and westbound.

## **Community Survey Facilitators – Rob Mitchell and Carolyn Born**

- Concerns regarding the timing of the Survey launch and timetable for the rollout of the Community Plan given the possible impact of the Spending Review later in the autumn.  
**Recommendation:** That we delay the release of the Survey until mid November, the Public meeting until May and the roll out of the Parish Plan until June. This would allow for a review of our plans against the likely impact of the outcome of the Spending Review and funding streams available.
  
- Martock Community Plan booklet text a little on the small side, especially for the elderly who may have poorer sight. The content is very wordy and to try to combine the feedback sections alongside the Survey questions in its current format may be too much for people to take in. The area set out for completing the questions is perhaps a little limiting.  
**Recommendation:** Produce the booklet with the project feedback sections on its own with larger type and aim to set out in a more easily legible format. The Survey questions could be set out in A5 size as per the DRAFT A4 format with larger type and be folded and included in the middle of the booklet as a separate item. Charlotte Jones offered to review the opportunity for printing some of these A5 Survey questions sheets at SSDC either FOC in part or reduced cost etc.
  
- “Volunteers Wanted” eg Unemployed Graduates – how can we reach them? How can we engage with them? Are we able to offer them a good opportunity to carry out some valuable voluntary work for their local community in Martock!? All ideas considered!
  
- Ongoing concerns about parking in Church Street and the difficulties experienced by Mother’s with buggies / children and the elderly and less able in crossing this road; also irresponsible parking and speed of vehicles. Opportunity for a pedestrian crossing at the Nat West Bank to facilitate safe crossing of the road to the Surgery, Chemist, village hall, MCF Church etc. Also at the same time consider the case for a 20mph speed limit through the centre of Martock particularly from the Precinct to the intersection between Church Street and Water Street.

### **Specific Questions on Draft Survey**

Q1.1 - Would it be possible to sub-divide the question into parts in a table format, specifically its impact on:

- burglary, mugging, assault
- road safety
- environmental safety (pavements etc)
- children

- older people

Q1.2 - 'What emergency plan?' Rather than ask the question, residents thought it would be a better idea to have an article in the Leveller/Magazine etc to report on the Emergency Plan stating how operated, where documents and equipment are kept, how you could volunteer to help and who organises this help.

Q3.3 - May 2012 not 2010 or another date.

- The George and the old Nisa store are major issues to the people who came to see me. People said we must be creative about the George's future. Similarly the Nisa store shouldn't revert to being a shop because it just won't be able to survive against the Co-op. It should become a 'new' Coffee Pot (because that shuts far too early). If the new Coffee shop had internet access that would help entertain children (and we could know where they were). It would also have a good outside space to welcome visitors. Then plans should be considered to increase the size of the Co-op - is the Library 'safe'?
- Other people suggested re-inventing the annual carnival with help from the Business Association/Community.
- One person was adamant that all projects must be costed in the Mid 2011 plan because sustainability issues will arise from any projects suggested, particularly if government cuts are drastic.

**Crazy Ideas**  
**Facilitators – Louise Treacher and Carol Mason**

- Partying
- Build on green sites and reduce housing density and people pressure - this may help to ease violence etc
- Co-ordination of leisure facilities / after work activities and clubs etc
- Pedestrianize the centre of Martock
- All small businesses should be encouraged to provide work experience for young unemployed with reference provided at the end which should then help them to get a paid job. Also for adults trying to get back to into work - e.g. mums
- Do a fancy free sponsored walk for the community to raise money for a project
- We need to involve the graduates who are not working year. They could help the community
- Life ling learning - evening classes, further education
- Parish council to fund a youth bus at 10pm Friday and Saturday evenings for socialising
- Multi generational / family opportunities and activities
- Sort out litter - Bower Hinton to A303 awful
- It's all about promotion - tell people where they live is a place to be proud of and they will believe it!
- More things like the Victorian Street Party - bringing folks together
- More local events for the whole community to get together and join in - like the Victorian Street Party
- Fix Martock On Line web site so it can record the number of 'hits'