



# PLANNINGPOOLE

Town Centre North Area Action Plan



## Borough of Poole



## Summary of Youth Forum Workshop 17th January 2006



## January 2006



TCN AAP Doc 4

*Striving for Excellence*

# **Contents**

## **Background**

## **Programme**

## **Workshops**

**Outcomes from workshops:**

**SWOT Analysis of Town Centre North Area**

**Planning Vision and Options**

## Background

This paper summarised an event held at the Civic Centre in Poole on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006. The purpose of the event was to get feedback from the Youth Forum on how the Town Centre North Area Action plan can best meet the needs of younger people in the town centre. Feedback was to be used to help inform design and uses planned in the TCN AAP Initial Options Document to be published Spring 2006.



# Programme

The event programme is set out below:

## PROGRAMME

### Intro

#### 7:15–7:35 – Presentation

How many shops and other uses can we expect up to 2016?

Where do Poole's shoppers currently come from?

Why in the town centre?

What are some of the good points about this part of the town centre and what are the bad?

What is good practice?

### Workshops

To do the following:

#### 8:00 – Lets SWOT the town centre.....

Can each group discuss the following and make notes:

**STRENGTHS** – what's so good about the town centre north area?

**WEAKNESSES** – what's bad about it?

**OPPORTUNITIES** – what could be done to improve things?

**THREATS** – what might stop us getting these improvements?

#### 8:20 – Planning Aspirations

What VISION should we have for the area?

What OPTIONS are there?

#### 8:40 – Feedback

## Workshops

The remainder of this paper is set out to summarise the outcomes from the workshops. Three workshop groups were set up (Group A, B and C). They were all asked to consider what the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threat were for this part of the town centre. The session lasted for approximately 20 minutes and was followed by a further 20 minute session on what the planning vision should be for this part of the town centre, followed by ideas as to what specific measures could be incorporated into the 6 Initial Options planned for consultation in Spring 2006.

### **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT analysis of the Town Centre North Area)**

In terms of the existing infrastructure the Youth Forum felt the area was well provided for (or possibly even over-provided for) in terms of parking. The bus station is considered to be in the right broad location, however its physical appearance is particularly poor as well as its impact in terms of cleanliness. The Youth Forum expressed concern over the impact the station has on feelings of security – the station being considered particularly unsafe at night.

The Library is identified as a particular asset to the town, but seen as tucked away and not well integrated. Similar comments were made about the Lighthouse. Comments were even made in so far as it is the sort of facility that would normally be associated with a more vibrant student town or city such as Bath.

Generally weaknesses associated with the area were that the existing uses seem 'random' in terms of their spatial planning and relation to each other. The bus station subway was even described as 'evil'. This was seen as producing an environment that is characterized by poor routes and cold, dark and dirty spaces.

This part of the town centre is criticized for lacking activity and vibrancy at night – particularly for younger people. Poor linkages with the High Street and Quay mean that the area doesn't link up with parts of the town that do provide activity for younger people – eg the Quay and the High Street. The sorts of uses that would improve the town centre offer for younger people include more communal / flexible public space. This means the sort of space that can be used for a variety of activities from street entertainment to temporary ice rinks, markets or just for young people to meet.

The growing number of bars and clubs were seen as a potential threat to the town, particularly in terms of crime and disorder. Major obstacles and other threats were identified including costs, barriers (eg rail line) and the Castlepoint effect.

The actual feedback is summarised overleaf:

## SWOT Analysis that came from all three groups.....

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<p>Modern            Lots of Car Parks            Art Centre            Bus Station – Centre of Town            Gym/Sports Centre            Poole Park            Quay            Tower Park            Dolphin Pool            Multi-purpose Library for all ages            Funky Re-vamped inside of Dolphin Shopping Centre            Looks fantastically funky, like it should be in a student town like Bath</p>	<p>No cinema            No green places            No live music            More Parking for Disabled            Train Crossing gets stuck            Bus Station is pretty grim, confusing, grotty &amp; dirty            Bus services infrequent – although have recently improved            Buses generally stop after 7pm            Bus station isn't safe and welcoming at night            Dolphin has no bins            Dolphin Centre is ugly, dirty, cold and unwelcoming            Poole is Creepy at night            Car park            Area is 'too stony'            Area is dead after 7pm – why not cafes in the summer?            'Random' shops at the end of the Sainsbury's car park            The Sports Centre is rubbish            The Swimming Pool is really isolated</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>Need more entertainment            Need more of a civic centre feature            Need a link to Poole Quay            Need a link to the High Street – Activities/Carnivals            Attraction for people out of town and with other areas and need more links with other towns            Communal spaces used by everyone for a variety of reasons and uses            More funky lighting            Park and Rid could be fantastic if people realised it was there            A proper square            More under 18s places needed – open in the evening            Clean Bus Station            Relocate bus depot</p>	<p>Don't want Bournemouth Town's Clubs and Bars with their problems            Bus Station Subway – evil            Open up High Street from Bus Station            Money/Cost/Space            Getting around obstacles and train track            Number of people willing to invest in Poole            We can't really knock down Costas – so where can we put a really 'squarey' type place?            Bournemouth – the BIC Ice Rink            Castlepoint</p>

## Planning Vision and Options

Each workshop was asked to think about what the planning vision for this area should be and what options might help to deliver this vision.

### **Vision:**

The workshops did not dwell on what the overarching vision should be although did stress that the Action Plan should: “Make area more used and people more comfortable in their surroundings.”

### **Options:**

A wide number of specific measures were identified as options for the area. These are themed and set out below:

#### **Access & Movement**

- Close subways
- Close Kingland Road (use for Bus Station only)
- Put in a covered pedestrian bridge arching from back of multi storey car park into Sainsbury’s site,
- Roof Car Park behind Falklands Square above WH Smiths – Who uses it?
- Need more Disabled Parking in Sainsbury’s and extra car parking where Pound Stretcher is located
- Better Links to Tower Park
- Connection between the High Street and Poole Park – Perhaps with Carnivals

#### **Civic Pride / Public Spaces**

- Open Space – green in front of Arts Centre
- Smoking bans in public places
- Wishes – Barclay Building could be more attractive (or knocked down)

#### **Improved Vitality, Better Mix of Uses and better safety**

- UCI Cinema on car park left of the Bus Station and include underground car parking
- Move depot to Branksome, back of MFI [there is ‘lots unused space there’]
- Theme the Bus Station
- Replace half the multi story Car Park with a Quasar or Bowling Alley
- Resite Sainsbury’s to the other end of the car park and put in more retail outlets with flats over
- More lighting required to ensure safety when travelling around Poole at night
- More entertainment i.e. cinema/ ice rink

- Nighttime Activities with events at Poole Park
- Subways need better lighting
- More stores open later
- Need a Youth Centre/Nightclub/carnivals
- Need a well monitored place for U18's
- Skate Park to be self supporting and run as a business and incorporate a specialist shop
- More lighting in Poole Park and other dark areas

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