

Fairmead Estate Regeneration Project Resident Consultation Day Wednesday 14th April

The main purpose of providing a consultation day for the residents of the Fairmead estate was principally to keep local people informed regarding the developments of existing plans and ideas currently being discussed under the Core Master Plan proposal, and ultimately give residents a chance to provide valuable feedback which captures their thoughts and feelings regarding these issues. The opinions which were shared in various forms throughout the day have subsequently provided insight and understanding around real customer views on a variety of areas which are being considered under the current regeneration proposals.

Residents were able to attend a drop in consultation session which ran throughout the day at the Fairmead community centre. The session proved to be relatively successful, with around 15 people coming to browse plans and discuss certain issues which were personal to individual circumstances, most particularly regarding housing demolition and associated impacts. The vast majority of the residents who visited were very pleased with the outline of the Core Master Plan, and believe that a change in design for the estate is desperately needed and long over due in tackling the long standing issues which have commonly been observed in Fairmead.

Many people who dropped into the Community Centre throughout the day also returned for the evening meeting, which included a more formal presentation of the regeneration plans and proposal ideas and a subsequent resident focused discussion. A total of 19 residents, as well as council members and staff, attended the evening meeting to obtain more in depth information and have outstanding questions answered. The discussions which took place throughout the day and the feedback which was received from a total of 15 residents provided some important viewpoints in relation to a number of key issues, and highlighted majority concern for a small number of focus areas.

Issues raised from resident feedback

General points:

- The general consensus from discussions which took place and feedback provided during the day reflected a broad acceptance of the Core Master Plan which was put up for residents to look at and compare against the existing layout of the Fairmead Estate.

Housing related points:

- There was a clear concern reported from a number of residents of the need for larger housing, i.e. 3 – 4 bedroom houses, to accommodate the proportion of larger families already living on the estate. Some people also highlighted the point that it was important to provide enough large enough if more families are to be moved on to the estate.
- A number of residents whose current dwelling is under threat of demolition in accordance with the Core Master Plan voiced their concerns regarding relocation. In particular, the majority of these residents living on the edge of the estate were not happy with a possibility of being relocated in middle of the estate. Similarly, those tenants who currently have the advantage of living in a semi-detached house were unhappy with being relocated into the new build terrace housing.

Spinal Road related points:

- A large number of people were very happy with the prospect of introducing a spinal road onto the estate. This was particularly reported in relation to safety and surveillance improvements which would come with opening up the estate through improved access and connection links.
- Improved access for emergency services was particularly noted by the majority of residents who commented upon this issue, and is believed to be a positive step towards reducing crime in regards to removing alleyways and similarly improving efficiency for ambulances.
- Despite the illustrations of these positive points, a fair proportion of residents similarly highlighted their concern with issues of speeding along the proposed spinal road and consequently suggested the need for speed restrictions.

Parking proposals and associated issues:

- Many of the residents discussed the need for parking outside their houses and welcomed the proposals for immediate parking opportunities. This was especially seen to be a positive addition in regards to surveillance and safety monitoring of vehicles.

- Some garage owners voiced concerns regarding reduced access to existing garages under the new proposals for improved parking access.
- Possible gated parking areas were also addressed by some.
- A number of residents raised the issue that the proposals for improved car parking areas will take into account those families that have more than one car and subsequently provide adequate provision for these families.

Young peoples facilities options:

- The vast majority of residents have said that the MUGA needs to stay in its existing location or be replaced elsewhere on the estate, as it has not been accounted for on the Core Master Plan and is considered by the residents to be an essential asset for young people in Fairmead.
- Some people professed the need for an alternative (sport) facility for young people if the MUGA is excluded and not replaced, such as the inclusion of a sport centre/hall developed from the empty flat buildings or a development behind the Community Centre?
- Much discussion was engaged regarding the location of the existing/replacement MUGA with some residents feeling it should stay at the frontage of Nottingham Road, while others believe it should be moved into the centre of the estate. Associated issues of lighting, noise etc.