

A Vision for Chilmington Green

Community Planning Weekend – Feedback Session

On Wednesday, 20th October 2010, John Thompson & Partners and the Chilmington Green consortium developers held an open meeting Feedback Session to present all of the information and views gathered at an earlier weekend Community Planning Event (held on 24th and 25th September), and showed how this information has been used to contribute towards the emerging vision for Chilmington Green's future development as a sustainable, urban extension of Ashford.

During the two day Community Planning Event in September, people had the opportunity to view and comment on emerging ideas and to participate in workshops and walkabouts to explore local and site specific issues. Over 120 local people attended the event and expressed their views and ideas about the new development.

PLEASE NOTE: All proposals for the Vision are provisional only and part of an on-going conversation, and are therefore subject to change.

Key Points

These ideas and concepts came from the Community Planning Event – and are being incorporated into the emerging vision:

- To integrate the new settlement into the landscape with plenty of green open space throughout the development
- To maintain the strategic views through the site
- To ensure the views of the development from the surrounding area are considered – provision for enhancing tree lined ridges
- Create separate landscape areas – including a woodland and wetland area
- Create a 'green arc' of open space which connects right through the development
- Respect and retain the character of Chilmington Green hamlet, enhance it with a new village green, and protect it in the heart of the green arc of open space
- Have a productive landscape – with allotments, an edible landscape, and community farm
- Downgrade existing lanes to limit traffic, where possible, and retain as green routes for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders
- Ensure SmartLink public transport is integrated within the development, along with a network of cycleways and footpaths
- Create a tree lined avenue to align with previous airfield runway – potentially using street names in honour of Ashford airmen.

- A High Street with Market Square, food store, shops, cafes, and Community Hub building to accommodate a variety of different local services, voluntary and community organisations.

Some local participants comments:

“The quality of the new development should match the quality of its location.”

“Wellbeing is based on what there is in terms of nature, wildlife and amenities. You don’t want to feel hemmed in by too much development – you need to be able to breathe.”

“We need to create a really compelling place that people want to come to.”

“If there’s no public transport the new residents will never get out of their cars.”

Next steps:

The ideas and content of the Community Planning Event will go forward into shaping an emerging Masterplan in consultation with Ashford Borough Council.

A further public session is planned for January / February 2011 when the emerging Masterplan will be presented in more detail and feedback sought.

The full report and feedback from the Community Planning Weekend will be available on the website of John Thompson & Partners www.jtp.co.uk