

Stronger Towns Fund Goldthorpe

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to outline the proposition for engagement and/or consultation with residents of the Goldthorpe with regards the development of the Stronger Towns plan. Engagement and consultation with residents will assist the Board in validating and/or making the necessary amendments to the draft Stronger Towns plan. Through this process the Board will take on the wishes and views of Goldthorpe residents and ensure the proposals are fit for purpose before any submission is made.

Background

The Communities Secretary announced on 4 March 2019 a new £1.6 billion Stronger Towns Fund for England. Goldthorpe was identified as one of the Towns that could, through a competitive process submit proposals in order to try and secure 25 million investments into the town.

The Communities Secretary recognised the importance of creating such a fund to enable Towns to develop that were not benefiting from the wider regional economy. The core objectives that have been set are to drive economic growth, urban regeneration planning and land use, skills and enterprise and connectivity.

The Towns Board have already met several times and discussed priorities/specific projects for the area in order to formulate a plan for Goldthorpe. What provides more weight to the initial discussion outcomes is that in 2019 the Area Team consulted locally and many of the areas for development and concerns were highlighted by residents.

As a follow on the Board would like to go back out and consult/engage with Goldthorpe residents in order to show the participants how some of their ideas have been developed, keep them engaged with this process and to discuss the draft plan.

Proposal

Within the time frame allocated there needs to be time built in to pull all of the findings together, this approach needs agreeing by the Board and the draft plan needs to be developed. The draft plan will form the questions that we are going out to ask residents and consultation will be for a 2 week period following approval of the draft plan by the Board. Given the timescales for expedient change as part of this programme, the preferred model will be to undertake public engagement activities in a variety of ways. Obviously in this climate it is far more difficult to engage face to face but these options will be considered whilst obviously adhering to social distancing.

- Develop an online link using BMBC smart survey mechanism (no more than five questions)
- This should be shared on social media, through the neighbourhood network and by our partner organisations.
- Work with partner organisations that are still operating in the area and conduct face to face consultations. Obviously taking into consideration safety etc.
- Conduct telephone consultations, using volunteers, area team and partner organisations (any one taking part in this process will need a full briefing beforehand)
- Findings from the face to face and telephone can be inputted into the survey to make collation easier. The survey will run off a brief report based on results.