

Outcomes from Member Priority Setting Workshop – 15th July 2019**Safe and Healthy Communities**

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large % of affordable housing needed - investigate what grants are available• Don't rely on private developers to provide housing• Provide cheaper community homes• Provide environmentally friendly homes• Provide more bungalows and retirement homes• Work with partners when building new homes i.e. fire brigade for smoke alarms• Go beyond basic minimum building regulations - look for higher standards• Find incentives for builders• Act as a brokerage so smaller developers can access finance• Use small brownfield sites /old mills etc. for housing development• Consider quirky housing designs i.e. co-housing concept• Provide a list of empty properties to Councillors with the reasons why they are empty• Encourage homeworking• Attract younger workers
Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retain the police surgeries and satellite posts, promote positive police activities.
Community Engagement / Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve community events i.e. increase Councillors surgeries• Councillors should attend more community events• Utilise local schools and church halls to set up multi purpose community hubs

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Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase activities for older and younger residents • Improve the leisure centre • Link with U3A (fitness classes for older residents) • Set up a walking for health programme • Promote our own environment for leisure/fitness i.e. The Roaches • Provide walking maps at car parks for a minimal fee (vending machine) • Set up specific social media groups for events i.e. young persons sports groups • Look at how sports councils operate • Re-instate sports user groups in conjunction with leisure centres • Encourage younger people into sport especially in the villages • Simplify the process for setting up sports groups i.e. football teams
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep local hospitals • Replace CCG with a more efficient CCG as there are a number that are run successfully • Hold CCG to account and get more involved

Effective Use of Resources

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Organisational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we care for the workforce i.e. not overworked, focus on staff wellbeing, stress management & encourage a work life balance • Nurture our staff, invest in training to improve skills, succession planning, make them feel empowered, aim to retain and provide career development • Are they overworked with smaller team numbers, make sure we are not asking too much • Listen to the voices, what they have to say • Try to increase morale - it must be demoralising if someone has an idea that can't be fulfilled due to lack of money or people • Can we increase apprenticeships – get young, enthusiastic staff in but managed properly so not adding extra work - find a balance • Promote better/easier ways for teams to communicate • Most valuable asset is our Staff
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use local contractors to look after local areas. • Model Local Procurement – Boost Local Economy
Efficiency / Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand/publicise more about how we spend money Vs how it comes in, and how is that spending/saving prioritised? • Value for money for our Residents should always be the priority • Communicate to the public what we do, how we are trying to save money! • Ask staff what they think, if we could do this any differently – to make it any cheaper • Is charging for replacement bins / charging at the tip worthwhile, what is the cost of the associated fly-tipping as a result? • We should only pay out to Members when the meetings take place

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Access to Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we measure Customer Services? • Digital focus – we need to keep up with the times • Put more resources into digitising services so they're available online • More demographic engagement – understanding what our Residents want • Encourage Members to get involved with more online conversation with residents • Can we get more partner agencies back into One Stop Shops? • Offer a variety of channels available for customers to use, making sure no one is excluded • Review website use, and use identified trends to shape future • Put processes on line, so customers can self serve - help encourage a paperless society • Always consider those with no internet access (rural areas) or digital skills
Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties as assets – feed back outcome of property/accommodation reviews to Members • Look to reduce staffing costs/ overhead costs by handing over properties to partners/organisations i.e. Biddulph

Local Economy

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity – Public Transport (rural villages). • Student transport • Highways and pavement painted lines maintenance – safety issues • Enforcement of car parking outside schools / on pavements – including leaving engines running and children having to walk through engine fumes etc. • Leek Shared space (SCC) – original design/money needed to be spent on to make safe
Business Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our resource input – Tourism spend is high, what about industry / manufacturing? • Help to develop business skills with schools and colleges, apprenticeships, work experience • Council sponsorship of business awards - similar to sports awards • Encourage local business to promote / support our local economy • Investment in business premises – incubator units, opportunities for expansion as the business grows • Impact of Local Plan on Biddulph businesses • Interdependencies of these priorities e.g. planning, tourism, growth, town centres • Role of partners such as the Chamber of Commerce and LEP • New business shouldn't just be focused on the service economy – manufacturing base is important • Lack of start-up premises • Better mix of industrial premises needed • Business advice and support • Facilitate live / working • Jobs for young people – skilled roles • Skills training • Measured risk investment – Council's role to build business premises • Promote the local area – Open 4 Business • How do we set ourselves apart from other areas – high quality rural provision of premises? What's our USP? • Business liaison • A Business Plan for the area
Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Connectivity – free Wi-Fi for 2 years in council premises

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Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tourism links – neighbouring market towns, e.g. Buxton, Ashbourne, Congleton• Encourage new ideas e.g. Totally Locally• Tourism – council as an enabler. More support for local festivals and getting organisers to focus on local economic benefits• Sustainable tourism / transport links arguments vs remote locations and outdoor pursuits accessed by car

Protecting the Environment

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Waste & Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase recycling efficiency • Look into re-introducing recycling banks in car parks and public areas • Work with supermarkets to encourage recycling – returning glass for money etc. • Encourage what to recycle and reuse
Public Conveniences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Toilets in all areas – current cleanliness / unwelcoming/ maintenance. • Lack of public toilets and opening hours in evening. • Lack of disabled toilets in evening (some are closed with shutter) • Public toilet state has link to what tourists' first impression of area is • Lack of public toilets/state of public toilets links to ASB.
Street Cleansing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street cleaning including weeding. • Dog Fouling • Street furniture – upkeep/maintenance. First impression to visitors. • Total ban on Chinese Lanterns. • Litter enforcement – no deterrent (Rather than clean up leave for a month and use as example) • Promote litter picking and officer/facilities for members to use – litter picking equipment etc. • Work with schools to promote and award litter picking • Increase litter bins and re-look at design of litter bins (cigarette butts left on top)
Parks & Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more wildlife • Local tree planting / flower borders / fruit trees / veg boxes • Community Orchard • Trim Trail • Wildlife meadow e.g. within Brough Park • Wildlife youth groups – voluntary work / parks areas. Youth provision • Environment working group – financial and officer support needed to give teeth to

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Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look into recycling facilities within council buildings – set example • Log Burners – clean air, enforcement of smoke free zones. • Local Authority need to lead on climate change. • Reduce emissions • Lead by example • Encourage car sharing • Smaller things to make a big difference • District heating, shared boilers / improved building • Work closer together – but think about carbon footprint (can we save money by not travelling as much, make better use of conference call facility/digital working) • Solar panels on council buildings/assets • Promote walking to schools • Meanwhile space – temporary use of a site that has potential in the future but that is currently vacant. • Use electric vehicles (but we'd need charge points) • Think about the use of energy as a resource – be more focussed on climate change • Think more about our own carbon footprint, encourage car sharing • Employ a climate change champion to take us forward • Look into reducing our Energy overheads more, e.g. heating only comes on when needed – and energy efficient lighting that goes off automatically/solar panels/stop using plastic cups • Deal only with suppliers who care about climate change/ reducing plastic
Car Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric charging points on car parks : free parking for electric cars • Electric charging points - look into central pot of funding • Digital car parking machines • Maintenance of car parks (Moorlands House rear car park as example of needing attention)