

WORKSHOP 1 – GREEN GROUP (facilitated by Tim Snell, Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd.)

Places	Examples of the main issues arising from consultation and engagement <i>Please refer to accompanying sheet for the full range of issues</i>	What do you think are the most important options for this area?	Why do you think these are the most important options?	How do you think this can be delivered?
Villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some development within villages to retain rural community viability and self-containment. • Additional housing should be on previously developed land in the urban area/existing settlements/smaller rural villages • Maintaining viability of supporting local shops and services 	<p>One of the most important options discussed was to maintain the viability of villages and reduce commuting. There was consensus within the group that expansion should be employment led - there should be a balance between housing and employment provision in villages, otherwise commuting to major centres increases. The main focus for this expansion should be on 'brownfield' sites within rural areas. The group also felt strongly that public transport links between the villages and Swindon should be improved.</p> <p>The group felt that the future of villages should primarily be decided by the villagers themselves (self-determination). There was a strong feeling that villagers want their villages to expand and improve, in particular with regard to affordable housing provision.</p> <p>Voluntary social enterprises should be encouraged and opportunities for temporary mobile shopping facilities and local farmers markets should be explored. A community hall should be established in each village to provide a focus for the community.</p> <p>The group discussed the lack of facilities for ethnic minorities in Swindon and its surroundings, and the need in particular for a Muslim centre.</p> <p>There was a feeling amongst the delegates that Swindon Borough Council has no strategy for its rural areas and this should be redressed. It was also felt that Parish Councils need to become stronger in order to attract enterprise to their areas.</p>		
Urban Extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional housing should be focused on previous developed land in the urban area in the first instance • Any development at Commonhead should minimise its impact on Coate Water • Much more Affordable Housing is needed 	<p>The group initially agreed that additional housing should be focused on previously developed land in the first instance but then came to the conclusion that urban extensions should be considered and pursued in tandem with brownfield land redevelopment, and not only when it has been exhausted. This is because urban extensions require longer lead-in times.</p> <p>A number of delegates felt that apart from a hospital expansion, there should not be any other development at Commonhead. If a University presence is attracted to Swindon, the group felt it should be located centrally perhaps in a landmark high-rise building rather than at Commonhead.</p> <p>The group agreed with this principle – in particular more smaller houses are needed for younger people.</p>		

Swindon Core Strategy – Local Policy Forum June 26th – Matrix

Central Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of underused previously developed sites • Provision for leisure facilities for all ages • Regeneration of the Central Area should not be about short-term profit for developers but about creating a centre that the Swindon community can be proud of 	<p>The group identified that the dominance and density of public houses and bars in the Central Area has rendered it a 'no-go' area in the evening, and there is a need for a more balanced 24hr economy.</p> <p>There is a need for mixed-use redevelopment of the Central Area, comprising a range of housing, shops, offices and cultural and leisure facilities. The retail centre of the town should be enabled to migrate to the north of the railway to create a more balanced centre with the heritage of the railway itself at its core.</p> <p>The group felt this issue is just a statement of principle, which should be fully supported. Planning decisions need to be proactive and more bold – once delegate suggested for example that Fleet Street should be flattened and completely redesigned.</p>
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WORKSHOP 2 – GREEN GROUP (facilitated by Tim Snell, Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd.)

Places	Examples of the main issues arising from consultation and engagement <i>Please refer to accompanying sheet for the full range of issues</i>	What do you think are the most important options for this area?	Why do you think these are the most important options?	How do you think this can be delivered?
Rural Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible approach needed to enable Farms to diversify into other sectors • Swindon's countryside needs to be protected 	<p>The group felt that farms should not necessarily be encouraged to diversify as often this can lead to creeping development in the countryside.</p> <p>The most important option for protecting the countryside is to designate sensitive areas and to implement meaningful strategic gaps in rings around settlements rather than thin wedges between settlements.</p>		
Neighbourhood Renewal areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment is needed in Swindon's existing communities, many of which have long been neglected 	<p>The group felt that a good way of securing necessary investment in Swindon's neglected communities is through s106 agreements. Developers could therefore provide facilities such as multi-use community centres.</p>		
Swindon Urban Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of underused previously developed sites 	<p>The group agreed that the development of underused previously developed sites should be encouraged and developed in tandem with urban extensions. Mixed tenure housing and new employment opportunities should be attracted. A specific example suggested by the group was for the Council to buy the mechanics institute and turn it into a Swindon-wide Community Centre.</p>		

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Borough-wide Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainability issues should be at the fore• The future planning of Swindon should properly tie in with community aspirations	The group indicated strong support for sustainable development principles, in particular the promotion of sustainable construction methods, eco-friendly housing and noise insulation / attenuation in new build houses.
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It should be noted that the group found the structure of the workshops confusing. Many of the issues listed in the second column appear to be statements of principle (or options) and many delegates therefore found developing options against them difficult, hence the general comments listed above.