

**Swanwick Neighbourhood Plan
Report on Drop-In Consultation
7.11.12**

Introduction

In June Swanwick Parish Council appointed Helen Metcalfe, a town planner and specialist in neighbourhood planning, to run a workshop for parish councillors and local residents to assist them in understanding what a Neighbourhood Plan is and its potential value to their community. 74 people attended the evening workshop.

A separate report was prepared on the key findings entitled 'Open Session June 12' and copies are available from the Parish Council.

Swanwick Parish Council were aware that they needed to run several events and at different times of the day to ensure that other local people could have their say before they developed any policies for Swanwick. The Parish Council arranged 2 drop in consultation sessions to be held at the Old School House, 22 The Green, Swanwick on 7th November 2012. The sessions ran from 3.00-4.30 and 6.30 – 8.00. However, from 6.00-7.00 the adjoining room was used to hold a Rainbows meeting (for young girls aged 5-7) and further consultation was also undertaken with the children and their parents when the children were collected.

62 people participated in the drop in consultation and participants ranged in age from 5 to mid-80. 42 attendees signed in and this list is shown at **Appendix 1**. However there were approximately 20 children from the Rainbows group who did not sign in. Photographs of the drop in sessions are shown at **Appendix 2**.

Format for the Workshop

Information was set out on the walls explaining what a neighbourhood plan is; this was similar to the content of the slide presentation at the June event. To that extent participants were provided with the same information and were encouraged to read these sheets and ask questions. Also displayed was the map showing the existing Amber Valley Local Plan 2006 policies for Swanwick which generated considerable discussion.

There was also a question about what they wanted Swanwick to be like 2028 which encouraged more general debate and responses.

Area Review

This was similar to the task undertaken in June to provide consistency with the other feedback. On 2 blank maps people were asked to use sticky spots to show:

- Where they lived = **yellow spot**
- Where they worked = **blue spot**
- What parts of Swanwick they wanted to protect = **green spots**
- What areas of the parish could be developed (if part of a managed land release through the Neighbourhood Plan) = **red spots**

Photographs of the 2 maps are shown at **Appendix 3**

Analysis

Both maps showed a strong desire from participants to protect the green spaces around Swanwick. As with the event in June people want Swanwick to remain a village not linked to Ripley and Alfreton, hence the dominance of green spots on the fields around Swanwick.

However, on both maps some people did consider some development to be acceptable on the green field land to the north of Swanwick. Map 2 identified the green field land to the west of Swanwick as possibly suitable for development although access routes would need to be from behind the garage not near the school or the High Street.

One participant proposed a land swap with some green belt land (an area to the south east of South Street and west of Derby Road and Swanwick Hill) being removed from the green belt and the land to the north of Pentrich Road and to the west of Derby Road being added to the green belt. If adopted in Amber Valley's Core Strategy this would give additional protection to the land north of Pentrich Road and open up the opportunity for development to the south of South Street. However, green belt designation is very difficult to achieve and green belt policy would not usually support the allocation of parcels of land (the principle is that that they form a belt of land). However, the National Planning Policy Framework and more recent government announcements have raised the issue of land swapping green belt land if development on the green belt land would be more sustainable. Given that the 2 housing sites identified in the SHLAA in Swanwick are not going forward as preferred sites in the draft Core Strategy this policy idea could be debated by the parish council but no decision would be required which would affect the timescales of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The young children and their parents also put red spots on some of the play areas because they felt they needed improving. The park behind the 'scout hut' was valued but a number of participants wanted additional sports facilities like tennis and bowls here. It was also noted that there was not enough for teenagers to do on this recreational area. There was also much comment from the younger parents about the lack of activities generally in Swanwick for children and how they had to travel to other areas to access these.

There was strong support for the development of Turners Charity Farm. This site is in the green belt and a Grade 2 listed farm building so renovation as a facility for young people would be constrained but not without precedent.

These drop in sessions and the evening event in June confirmed the need for facilities for young people and the owners of Turners Charity Farm are committed to developing this idea. It is proposed that this development should be supported through the Neighbourhood Plan.

What is your vision for Swanwick? What do you want Swanwick to be like in 2028?

Delegates were asked to imagine it is 2028 and that a Neighbourhood Plan has been implemented. They were encouraged to develop their ideas on post-it notes.

Analysis

As in the June event, several people raised the point about Swanwick needing to remain a village not connected to Alfreton or Ripley.

Other suggestions which could be developed in the Neighbourhood Plan were:

- The creation of a Country Park around Lily Farm with a nature reserve and a visitor centre. This is also seen as a way of positively utilizing this land where there is known to be developer pressure.
- Develop Jubilee Wood to include a recreational area behind the primary school and memorial gardens.
- The need for additional accommodation for older people to free up larger family homes to retain working age people in the village. Local people do want Swanwick to be a place where the needs of all ages are met.
- The need for facilities and activities for young people; develop Turners Charity Farm into a training and recreational centre for young people.
- Swanwick lacks a range of community venues and one suggestion was to have removable pews so that the church could be a multi-functional space.
- Future development in Swanwick must come with the adequate infrastructure.

A number of participants referenced the housing development that occurred 30 years ago when a school was also part of the scheme but was never built. Consequently there is only one primary school in Swanwick and a major constraint on future housing growth is the capacity of the primary school. The planning system should ensure that development is only granted permission if it does not put an unacceptable burden on existing infrastructure but in the past it has proved difficult to secure developer contributions to offset the impact of small scale schemes. The Community Infrastructure Levy (a legal requirement from April 2014) should ensure that all development impacts on roads and schools are mitigated against but this will only benefit Swanwick in the future it will not make up for the lack of adequate infrastructure to support the existing settlement.

There is no doubt that piecemeal housing development on windfall sites over the years has added to this incremental burden on the village's infrastructure.

A lack of parking in the village is a major constraint on the growth of Swanwick as a service centre according to local people. It was noted that parking is difficult in Swanwick and is getting worse. High Street is too narrow for buses, larger cars and lorries to pass. A one way system may ensure a safer route. Derby Road is also increasingly congested with cars parked on both sides near the Methodist Church. To provide additional parking to serve the local businesses narrowing of the pavement to create a short term parking bay would assist.

Concluding Remarks

The drop in sessions involved different groups of people from the event in June which is very important in ensuring that the ideas that will form the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan have come from a wide range of local people and not just one interest group.

The Parish Council were hoping to get more involvement from local business at these sessions but they still remain poorly represented. This is something that must be addressed. However, if the parish council proceed to the issues and options stage it is likely that once some specific ideas are generated this will generate more interest from the business community.

A number of attendees were unsure how well advertised the drop in sessions were and the Parish Council will need to consider a more robust promotional campaign at the Issues and Options stage if it is to draw more attention to its proposals. In the end this is vital if the Neighbourhood Plan is to be endorsed by the whole community through the referendum.

It is recommended that Swanwick Parish Council approach CPRE/NALC to secure additional funding in order to get assistance with preparing

1. A project plan which gives a timeline for the process of preparing the Plan and identifies who is doing what
2. A consultation strategy
3. A communications (promotion) strategy
4. Issues and Options Paper
5. Pulling together the evidence that would justify policy ideas.
6. Policy Formation

The support of Amber Valley Borough Council will be required throughout as will the need to coordinate with them in relation to the organising of the independent check and the referendum.

Helen Metcalfe, November 2012

Appendix 1

The Old School House 22 The Green Swanwick
Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 1BL

Tel 07949 392 136

email clerk@swanwickparishcouncil.org.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DROP IN SESSIONS WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2018

Please sign in here	Please put who you represent
KIRSTY STONE	SWANWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL
GARETH HUGHES	SWANWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL
DAVID JAMES	Homestyle building
DARREN MAYNER	DARREN MAYNER ARCHITECTURE
MARK LUCAS	
DIANE WOODHULL	RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
GARETH HARDWICK	PARISH COUNCIL
HOWARD HALL	_____
PETER STATION	PARISH COUNCIL
Doreen Station	PARISH COUNCIL
Pam Hall	_____

Mrs S A Leighton
Clerk to the Council
The Old School House 22 The Green Swanwick
Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 1BL



Tel 07949 392 136
 email clerk@swanwickparishcouncil.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DROP IN SESSIONS WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2

Please sign in here	Please put who you represent
	C.F. SWAIN
Rod Holmes	Methodist - church
Gill Holmes	WI Swanwick Methodist church luncheon club
M. BAGWELL	
Simon Howett	S. Howett.
	C. LLOYD.
J. Plant.	C.T.S.
	C.T.S.
Rex Wills.	Baptist Church

Mrs S A Leighton
Clerk to the Council
 The Old School House 22 The Green Swanwick
 Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 1BL



Tel 07949 392 136
 email clerk@swanwickparishcouncil.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DROP IN SESSIONS WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2012

Please sign in here	Please put who you represent
Bob Wether	self
Marian Obe	Self
Joseph Wong	"
Nguyen Pearson	Self + S.A.A.
Jacqui Swaine	Self.
Ann C. Spence	Self.
Oliver Ballantine	me & Family.
H. H. Cooper	Self
P. Jones	self.
J. Gregory	Self
Maurice P. Jones	self
K. Hart	Self.

Mrs S A Leighton
Clerk to the Council
The Old School House 22 The Green Swanwick
Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 1BL



Tel 07949 392 136
 email clerk@swanwickparishcouncil.org.uk

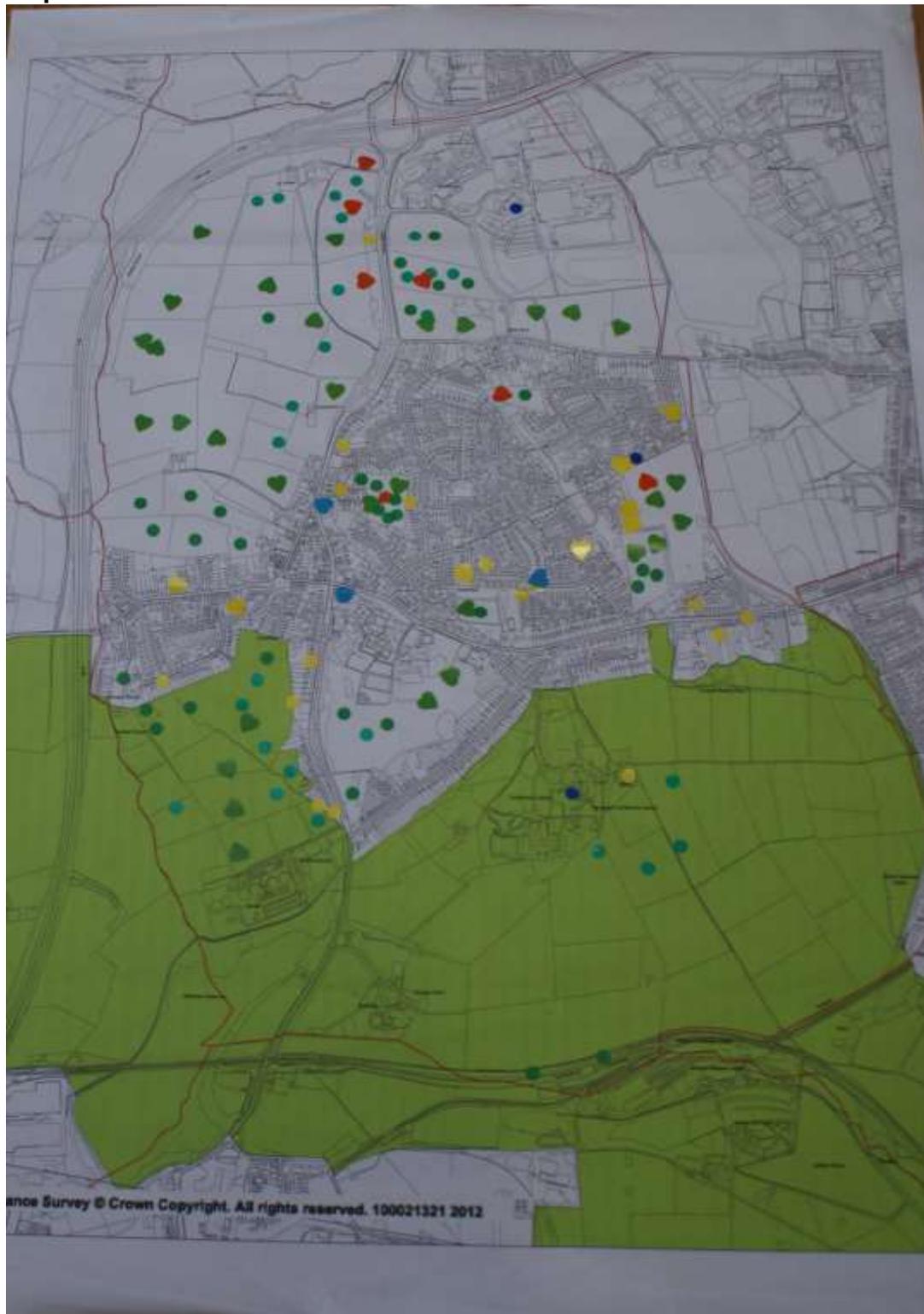
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DROP IN SESSIONS WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2013

Please sign in here	Please put who you represent
D. J. Sterland	D. J. Sterland
J.M. J. Wing	Resident in Swanwick Parent Governor at Primary School
ROBERT BEIGGS	Parish C.
REEMERTON	SELF
Whit	St Andrew's Church
D Whitaker	Valley CIP
P Whitaker	SELF
M.A.	
J. Law	SWANWICK RESIDENTS ASSOC.
F. Swann	VICE CHAIR SWANWICK RESIDENTS ASSOC.
John G. Beiggs	

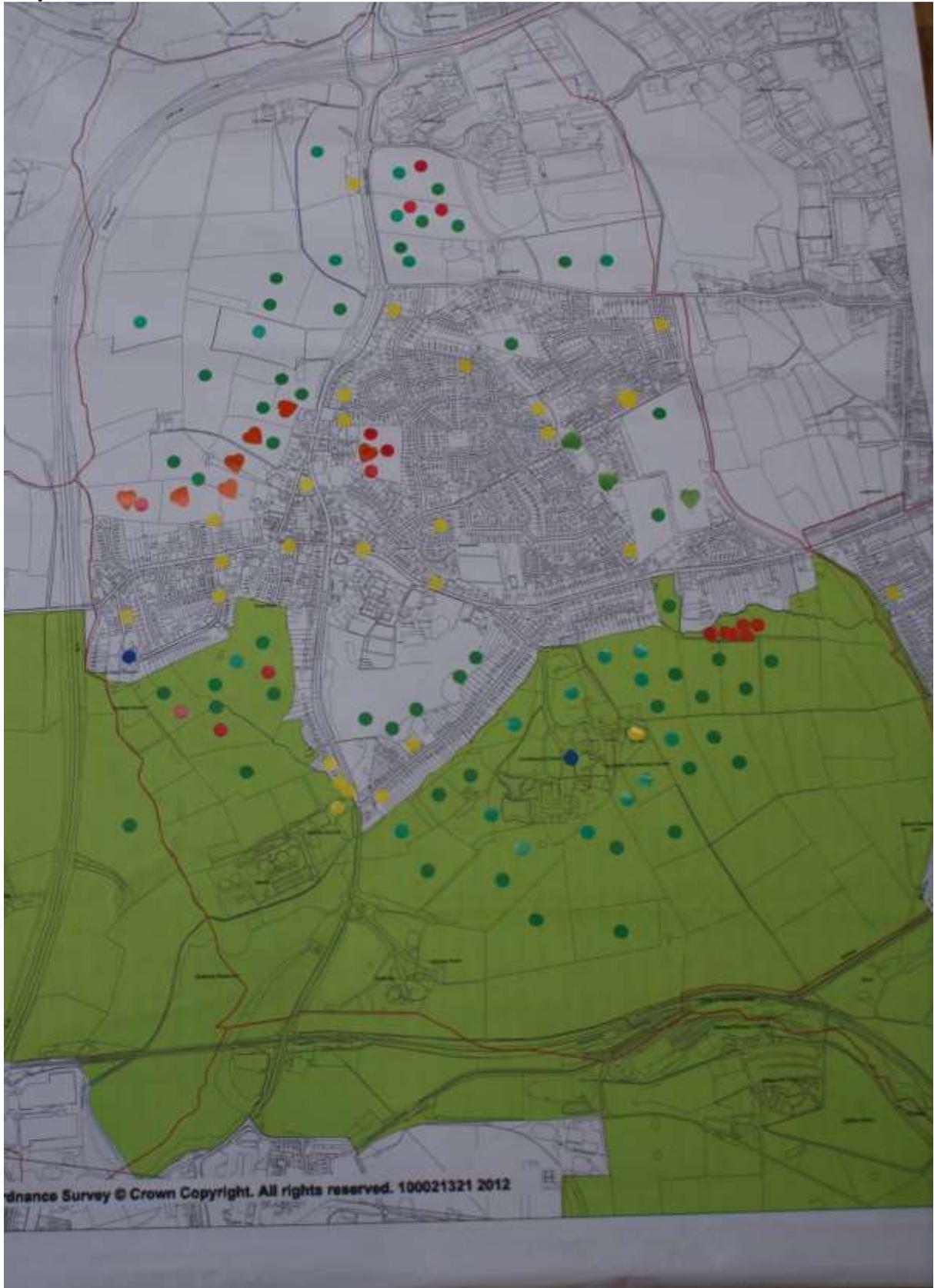
Appendix 2

Area Review: NB red spots = could be developed, green = need to protect, blue = where you work, yellow = where you live

Map1



Map 2



Appendix 3

Swanwick Rainbows and parents showing areas that are special to them



Ladies attending the Mothers Union meeting next door dropped in



Afternoon participants

