

Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Lounge Presentation

The Lounge café, Alvechurch: 17th November 2012, 10-2.

Summary:

The steering Group members were; Mary, Adrian, John and Linda

The café opened at 9 and closed at 2. Customers were invited to look around the boards displaying information about; what neighbourhood plans are and what they can and can't do, future housing site tables (SHLAA), and how one can be involved. There was a rolling presentation on two computers and the APNP website was up on other computers. Each table had a paper "tablecloth" with key points, and an explanatory sheet.

There were maps of the Parish area, one with SHLAA sites coloured in, and one where visitors were asked to place a red dot (yellow for children) close to where they lived, before leaving the room. These red dots indicated the approximate attendance and the area where people lived.

There were a total of 38 dots. Breakdown of attendance was

- 5 from outside the Parish, all people who use Alvechurch village frequently
- 22 adults and 4 children from Alvechurch
- 5 adults and 1 child from Rowney Green/Bordesley
- 1 from Hopwood

There was a booklet of questions which we will have to answer about development in Alvechurch, which people were invited to fill in. These were under the headings Housing, Business, Environment and Transport. Information in the booklet explained the choices. Some people filled them in then and there, some took them away. Results are analysed separately.

There was lively discussion in the café with many of the customers, even those who didn't fill in a questionnaire. People were very interested and most did not know about the Plan.

The event was publicised over the previous week through posters in the café and on some notice boards. However, I do not think anyone came into the café specifically for the Plan: there were people who would normally come there on a Saturday morning. Saturdays are usually a bit busier than this, but there were a good range of people, from young parents with children to elderly couples. Of particular interest were people living outside the Parish, all of whom had strong interests in Alvechurch for social life/ shopping/church/ family.

Although not everyone returned a questionnaire, those that were completed were done carefully and fully, and often carried comments.

Most people did not look at the boards or computer presentations much, preferring to engage in discussion – appropriate in a café setting.