

NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Flyer comments relating to the natural and built environment: 706

Adult Questionnaire – question number: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and further comments: 28

Youth Questionnaire – question number: 16, 21

A Natural and Built Environment Working Group has overseen the task of analysing information about environmental issues from the Flyer, creating questions for the Adult Questionnaire, and helping to summarize the results into Action Plans. In their work they have also liaised with other key professionals such as officers from the Isle of Wight Council. This wealth of data and information has been considered by the group and is summarized below.

In the first public consultation, the Flyer, the public showed a very high regard for the environment in which they live, the areas being particularly popular were the harbour, Western Yar river & estuary, the open spaces around the area, the natural beauty of the environment around Yarmouth & Thorley, the historic pier and the river and old railway line walks. The ranking by young people of the most popular open spaces were the beaches, the Common, the Green, and the Recreation Ground. The Primary School children were also enthusiastic about these.

However, a number of issues relating to the built environment are of obvious concern to local people and would form part of a Village Design Statement (See Action Plan B5), which would identify local character and set out design guidance for improving the appearance of the area. It is usual for such Statements to be produced by the community, a similar project to this Community Plan, and then to be put forward to the Isle of Wight Council with a request for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Coastal defence, future sea level rise and resultant flood risk are matters of great concern to the community. In 2008 Yarmouth Town Council and Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners jointly set up the Yarmouth Coastal Defence Working Group because of their growing concern about the impact and damage to Yarmouth from predicted sea flooding. Predictions of a local sea level rise of about 1 metre in the next 100 years, with no certainty as to the rate of this rise, had an immediate impact on development when residential planning applications became subject to the Environment Agency's flood risk areas of Yarmouth. Recently scientists have predicted an even greater rise. The Group's members are Town Councillors, Harbour Commissioners, a Freshwater Parish Councillor, a County Councillor, and local individuals with environmental and scientific knowledge.

So far the Group's focus has been twofold: to look at the pattern of past flooding incidents and future predictions, and secondly to understand the procedures of those who control the funding of any investigations and future defence schemes (the Environment Agency) and those responsible for strategy (the Isle of Wight Council). To date the West Wight Coastal Defence Strategy Study has not been completed by the Isle of Wight Council, so that it is difficult to envisage what sort of long term, sustainable vision for the future can be considered. With its background of relevant knowledge, the Group would like to be consulted by the decision makers so that Yarmouth, the Western Yar Estuary, and Freshwater coastal areas have confidence in meeting the challenge of sea level rise.

KEY ISSUES

Our community actively recycles waste by using facilities currently available to them such as kerbside collection services, the recycling centre in Yarmouth, and the Civic Amenity facilities in Freshwater and Newport (see Action Plan A). Yarmouth people who live near second homes feel strongly that the refuse collection day should be changed to Monday so that refuse is not left outside from Sunday for several days, but this does not seem to concern the majority of residents.

We are concerned about how we can retain and enhance the special character and appearance of our area. Issues such as the impact of traffic signage, advertising and retail goods on pavements and street lighting, all need to be considered.

We want to control litter and dog fouling in the area.

Our community is concerned about the impact of sea level rise and flooding on Yarmouth and want to ensure that the area's needs are considered and incorporated into sustainable strategic plans, policies and actions.

We value the special natural, built and historic environment of the area and would like to learn more about it with some people willing to help with its practical maintenance.

Relevant Action Plan numbers

B5, B6, B7.



Yarmouth recycling facilities © SD



Yarmouth Mill and Causeway © MC



The Common © BCE