

Winchester Local Development Framework and Sustainable Community Strategy – The Way Forward

ALRESFORD STAKEHOLDER MEETING

16TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Key points:-

Recognition that Alresford is a key hub and it is important for it to remain and sustain its key hub status, as it acts as a focal point for many of the surrounding villages. Also when the South Downs National Park is designated Alresford will be a gateway town.

There is a need to provide more housing as household sizes are reducing, and many people retire to Alresford which puts greater emphasis on ensuring facilities and services are accessible to all.

If the right type of housing isn't delivered the town will not be sustainable economically or sociably, must maintain a housing/employment balance. Goods and services will also be retained if there is more housing which is affordable.

The strength of Alresford is having small shops and support must be maintained for the independent traders.

Alresford has a diverse town centre which is its strength, with a number of industrial users close to the centre where workers either walk or cycle to work and use the town at lunchtime. However the current employment sites create congestion with heavy vehicles. There is concern that if new sites aren't provided, businesses will go elsewhere, release of these sites could provide land for housing purposes.

Perins school is the largest employer in the town, but its fabric is now in need of attention, a possible solution is to relocate the school to the edge of the town and use its site for housing purposes. Whilst there is government funding available for new school buildings a business case would need to be made. Hants CC advised that this suggestion whilst plausible may not stack up financially.

There was a desire for Alresford to remain within its existing boundary whilst maximising opportunities from the redevelopment of 'internal' sites such as the industrial sites and Perins school. Concern that as Alresford's settlement boundary is well defined that to grow beyond this would set the precedent for further development – but there was an acknowledgement that it would be acceptable to move the school to an edge of settlement greenfield location.