

Southminster in Future Times February Position Statement

A summary of all comments made through the household, youth and business questionnaires detailing the issues and proposed actions for the future was distributed to each household in the parish, along with an invitation for residents to have a further opportunity to comment on the appraisal report. Surgery sessions were promoted at “One Place” and the local church, commuters were prompted at the station, and local community groups were encouraged to give feedback during the course of their meetings in February. The process was highlighted through a morning slot on Saint FM. Use was also made of the website and written comments were also received. In addition the provisional findings contained within the appraisal report were shared with Essex County Council, Maldon District Council, Southminster Parish Council and the Primary Care Trust. As a consequence a pleasing number of additional comments were made, some of which confirmed the original findings and others introduced new topics. An additional benefit of the further consultation is that it has raised the profile and awareness of the task in hand.

Work is now occurring to summarise the additional contributions and to draft the action plan which will be available for inspection towards the end of March. Details of this will follow shortly on the website and through information boards. It is also proposed that work on the production of the Parish Plan, setting out the context of the consultation and action plan will begin shortly with a view to being published and distributed in early May.

Residents may be aware that the Parish Council has been working hard on some of the issues identified by this process. In January, representatives of Essex County Council received reports of parking problems and road congestion through inconsiderate parking, and in February Essex Police were briefed on matters which are of concern to some local residents.

Thank you for your continued interest; this has been encouraging. It has been particularly pleasing to note the steady number of people who are visiting our website at www.southminster-sift.org.uk to catch up on all that is happening. Why not make it one of your favourites as well?

Roger Sinden