

## Report on Southwell's Town Plan to prepare for the 2025-3035 Plan

The majority of residents have lived in the town between 6-15 years. There are relatively few new residents coming into the town, reflecting the static housing market over the past two years. **Demographic changes have affected this and so a new survey is required**

A large majority of residents value the physical environment of the town and area, access to amenities in the town including the library. Many people value our convenience for shopping and its community feeling. Pubs and restaurants and leisure facilities and the town's good facilities for children were also regarded as important by a significant minority. **Three pubs have closed in the duration but one reopened. Retail offer has changed and is now more service delivery, but there are still significant convenience shops in the town centre. The market offer has been maintained. Shop Southwell plays a key role in developing and maintaining the vibrancy of the town centre, but the retail centre has slightly contracted in size.**

Whilst a significant number of residents are retired there are a large number who work. Many drive to work, and a small proportion who use public transport to work. There are a significant minority who work at home or walk to work in the town. There are few who cycle to work. **Societal changes including working from home has affected this and so a new survey is required**

Residents think that there are adequate out of school facilities for Pre school children, Infant and Secondary school age children but less so for Junior school age. Suggestions for enhanced facilities for Junior aged children have been made for the War Memorial Park. **STC has made capital improvements in the WMRG**

There is widespread use of the footpaths and bridleways in the locality. The footpaths appear well maintained and signposted.

There are differing opinions about whether tourism be encouraged further in and around Southwell because of concern about impact. However, there is an understanding of the need for more Bed & Breakfast establishments and Hotels. A point was made that there is now no site for touring caravans close to the town, but opposition to a site for permanent holiday caravans. **No significant change. The Caravan Club rejected a site proposed by the STC but a site has opened at Maythorne next to the Trail. Other hospitality provision has been welcomed. The Minster has increased its programme of secular events. The Tourism Partnership is now a significant forum in the town.**

Litter is not seen as a problem in Southwell, as it is often cleared by staff and residents. However, dog mess is a problem. Areas along the Trail, and other main footpaths, as well as some parkland areas were cited as being continuing areas where owners fail to clear up their dog's excrement. **Report - action is still needed.**

Residents do not suffer from noise or disturbance from local industries or business parks but there was concern about the increasing amount of HGV traffic delivering to the town, although some of this was seen to be lorries passing through the town unnecessarily, perhaps due to incorrect use of satnav. There was almost unanimity in suggesting that there should be a 'downgrading' of the A612 to enable weigh restrictions and traffic calming to be installed. **The reduction of the A617 to a Class road means that Southwell is one of very few towns in the country with no A road through it.**

There were few difficulties in accessing the main health services in the town, although access to NHS dentistry is still causing some concern. **An NHS Dentists has been opened but now full. Residents so report issues of difficult access to the Surgery, so a new survey is required.**

In the next 5 years, if residents are less able to live in their present home, a significant majority of people would like to live in more suitable accommodation in Southwell or specially adapted homes. There will be a demand to live in their present home with support, but few people had considered moving to a smaller house. A very small number of residents were currently looking for alternative accommodation separate from other members of the household. These were often young adults; there was recognition that there was some housing available in the town, but an acceptance that other accommodation in the nearby towns was cheaper. **Demographic changes have affected this and so a new survey is required**

Residents looking to move were significantly hoping to find another dwelling in Southwell. Demand will be for owner occupied Housing association rented and sheltered housing. Details of the survey were passed directly to inform the Housing Strategy of the District Council. **The new Neighbourhood Plan attempts to address this issue, but requires the LPA and developers to follow these requirements.**

There was significant opposition to more housing, but in the event of new building there was considerable support for their restricted sale (eg. for local people) and Housing association letting. **New estates have an increased amount of social housing and some Council housing has been delivered on three sites.**

There was concern about police and enforcement in the town concerning anti social behaviour and speeding. Anti social behaviour was a particular problem on Friday evenings, especially at the end of the school terms. There continues to be concern about parking restriction enforcement. People found it difficult to contact the Police. There was a significant majority of residents who found the feed back of progress to be poor. There were very few homes that were part of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, but interest in being part of a Watch scheme from across the town. **Some success was evident with the STC maintaining a PCSO and now PC in the town, but recent issues have raised concerns about how issues are addressed.**

Residents found it easy to find out about what's on and news in Southwell, with specific mention of The Bramley, Southwell Life and Town Council notice board. Word of mouth, posters in local shop and the library are also very important. It was suggested that additional noticeboards in other areas of the town would help, with specific suggestions at Southwell Green and Norwood Gardens being cited. **Some noticeboards have been refurbished and better maintained. STC pays for a monthly report in The Bramley**

There was a significant number of requests for visits by Citizens Advice Bureau and for benefits advice in the town. **Citizens Advice did provide a limited service in Southwell but depended on budgetary support from N&SDC and now suspended**

The bus service was seen to be improving, but changes to the service often without adequate notice was a concern. There was disappointment about the routing of buses and the lack of a link to the rail services. **NCT's service now 30 min interval with a number of stops with interactive signage. New route 300 introduced, but still no coherent intermodal transfer**

Traffic calming to reduce speeds with calming measure such as interactive signs and new chicanes was seen as very important. However there was considerable opposition to the introduction of the humps. There was concern about the speed of traffic on the entrances to the town, and on the longer stretches of straight roads such as Newark Road and Westgate. **No regular speed indicator signs but Speedwatch group established and reporting to the STC and Police.**

There are not enough pedestrian crossings in Southwell with Lowes Wong Schools, Ropewalk and Lower Kirklington Road Station Road junction being the crossing cited most as causing concern for children and elderly crossing the road. **New crossings installed but crossings at NHoly Trinity School, Westgate and Easthorpe at the BP Petrol Station still being looked for**

The standard of maintenance of surfaces is unacceptable, with both roads and pavements seen by a very large majority as poor. Surfaces on Newark Road, Lower Kirklington Road and Ropewalk were cited as the three worst examples, but a large number of other roads in the town were also quoted. **Now a significant problem but recent resurfacing of Lower Kirklington Road and Ropewalk**

Facilities for cyclists were seen as acceptable but the lack of safe routes and poor signage were drawbacks. The lack of cycle racks in such places as the King Street car park and the Minster were given.

Street parking restrictions need to be introduced/modified on Ropewalk provided that a new pedestrian crossing was introduced. The Loading Bays in the town were seen as being badly enforced in the day but also seen as being too restrictive in the evenings. **Loading Bays now operate until 18h00**

Shops in Southwell were seen as an important part of life here, with much top up shopping being done in the town, with a significant minority doing all their shopping in the town. The wide range of shops in the town was welcomed, and many residents shopped regularly in the town. Whilst families with jobs outside the town did their main food shopping elsewhere, these families also shopped for top-up shopping and non food shopping in the town. Whilst many people walked to town for shopping there was a considerable number who drive to the town to carry shopping back in the car. **Demographic changes have affected this and so a new survey is required**

Street closure on Saturday to improve the shopping was seen by a significant minority as the one improvement they would like to see in the town centre. **No coherent action from the County Council with differing options being suggested without success.**

Residents are now expecting shoppers to bring their own bag to reduce the use of plastic carrier bags in Southwell and most would understand shops making a small charge for plastic bags. **National policy change has been implemented**

Other action on the environment that received support included the introduction of off road cycle paths through the town where possible such as through the War Memorial Park and between Church Street and Minster School, a Park and Ride to Nottingham and help with calculating carbon footprints including house energy

consumption. There was considerable support for more recycling opportunities, particularly in the collection of recycled materials such as glass, plastic and green waste. A Cross sites cycle path grant was planned with finances including grants achieved but turned down by NCC so no action taken. Glass collection now being at kerbside.

The provision of leisure activities using indoor and outdoor facilities was seen as good apart from those for the 50 plus. There were suggestions that there should be continued improvement of play equipment in the parks. The Leisure Centre was seen as being particularly successful. Bramley Close, by those who knew it, was not a good play area. The War Memorial Park area for older children was seen as needing development. The failure to repair/replace the swimming pool is significant. The District Council now wishes to end its lease of the Leisure Centre and the Trust is now set to take over running Centre again. New equipment has been provided in the Nowrwood Gardens/Ridgeway and the WMRG play areas.

There were a wide variety of priorities for changes in the town for the next ten years but there was significant concern about possible new housing development extending the size of the town beyond its current boundaries and population. The need for the control of traffic was seen as a priority by a significant number of residents, including the restriction of through traffic, including the removal of the A road status. The introduction of a 20 mph zone in the town was seen as important by a large number of respondents. The Town Plan has been effective in achieving some local changes but a number of key agencies have been significantly less engaged in responding to locally expressed requirements.

Review previously presented to the STC and revised August 2024

Peter Harris  
Convenor Town Forum 2025-2035

# Southwell Town Action Plan 2010-2015

## Town Forum Feb 2010

### **Economic vibrancy [lead STC Tourism and Events Partnership]**

supporting the town centre retail sector [Southwell Traders]	
encouraging dynamic window displays	work with the Business organisations
Planning strategic support for retail	planning guideline policy
directory of shopping by Traders	work with the Business organisations

investigate potential for street closure [Southwell Traders]	
Saturday closure of King Street	partnership with NCC

tourism	
support for Tourism Partnership	continued finance from STC and N&SDC
encouragement for half day stays	Tourism Partnership
coach park	work with N&SDC
support for Touring Caravan site	work with N&SDC
directory of B&B	Tourism Partnership
incorporation of Tourism Strategy into Town Plan	

car parks and bus routes	
2 hours free paid for by the Town	continued finance from STC
possible new location	partnership with STC and others
explore P&R introduction, location and signage	Leisure Centre and Bus Cos

Brackenhurst Campus	
understanding University Business Plan	membership of Forum by Nott Trent Univ
joint work with student body	membership of Forum by NTUSU

### **Leisure facilities [lead STC Parks and Open Spaces WP]**

recreation land	
new land lease/purchase	plans for development
incorporation of Town Parks and Open Spaces Strategy into Town Plan	

developing the play areas	
War Memorial Park - new facilities	continued finance from STC
	involve Minster and Lowes Wong School Councils
	campaign for N&SDC financial support
Bramley Close - campaign for development	pressure on N&SH

Sports Clubs [Southwell Leisure Centre Trust]	
support for facilities	continued finance from STC and N&SDC
sport development support pack	outreach by SLC
vacation schemes	partnership with STC

Youth Centre outreach	SLC and Youth Centre
children and young peoples play and support activity	

## **Social living [lead SNG and STC]**

Anti social behaviour campaign for enforcement clean up strategy	pressure on SNG STC
Police feedback lobby	pressure on SNG
Neighbourhood Watch develop further schemes	pressure on SNG
CAB and benefits advice campaign for mobile/outreach surgery	pressure on CAB and N&SDC
CCTV review of cost and benefit implementation of new technology to reduce revenue costs	STC N&SDC
NHS dentistry discussion with PCT to commission	pressure on PCT

## **The green environment [lead STC]**

waste collection campaign for additional collection development of bring sites	pressure on N&SDC continued finance from STC
footpaths map and development plans continued development accessible routes in town [High Town]	STC and NCC partnership STC and NCC partnership STC and NCC partnership
dog poo campaign and signage	STC and N&SDC partnership
litter campaign in school terms resident action groups	STC and N&SDC partnership with Minster School and Lowes Wong Junior School Councils STC

## **Our built environment [lead STC]**

A612 campaign for downgrading to B Road	pressure on NCC
cycle paths development of three cross town paths	pressure and funding from NCC
road and pavement repairs [STC Highways WP] log and prioritise	pressure and funding from NCC
pedestrian crossings campaign for introduction at key sites	pressure and funding from NCC
new building Planning guidelines identification of new build for Southwell Care Project site infrastructure planning	STC Planning Committee and N&SDC pressure on utility Co. and N&SDC
20mph zone [20's Plenty] campaign for introduction	pressure and funding from NCC
improve access for emergency vehicles consider impact of on street parking and removal of off street residential parking	STC Planning Committee and N&SDC

**Other issues post 2009 [lead STC]**

Best Kept Town	local engagement programme to retain	Tourism Partnership
Events	advance programme with Tourism Partnership	Tourism Partnership
Local Area Agreement	identification of improvements supporting LAA targets	

**Town Plan [lead Town Forum]**

Consultation	Feb 19 to March 9
Adoption and Publication	18h00 Mar 9 2010
Monitoring	Bi-monthly review by Forum
Review	Sept 2011 and 2013

**Review of terms of Reference May 2010**

include membership by	Southwell Care Project
	Brackenhurst NTUSU
	Brackenhurst Nottingham Trent Univ
	Minster School Council

**Review Meetings 18h00**

May 11
July 13
Sept 19
Nov 9

**Glossary**

CAB Citizens'; Advice Bureau  
N&SDC Newark and Sherwood District Council  
N&SH Newark and Sherwood Homes  
NCC Notts County Council  
NTUSU Nottingham Trent University Student Union  
PCT Primary Care Trust  
SLC Southwell Leisure Centre  
SNG Safer Neighbourhood Group  
STC Southwell Town Council

# **Southwell Town Plan 2010-2015**

## **Town Forum Mar 2010**

**Following the survey of residents in 2009, and consultation of the results of this by the Town Forum and its constituent organisations, the Town Forum has drawn up a Plan for the next five year.**

In 2004 the Town Council set up the Town Forum. The Forum has representatives from a wide range of groups and bodies in the town together with officers from the District and County Council.

The Town Forum developed a Plan which ran until 2009. As a result of this plan there have been improvements in the town such as development of play areas of the town, more events being run in the town, and attention being paid to the environment in the town centre and elsewhere. The full details of the review can be found on the Town Council's website [www.southwell-tc.com](http://www.southwell-tc.com).

The Town Forum circulated a questionnaire to every house in the town. Its results have been analysed and the full responses are also available on the council's website. The details have also been sent to the District and County Councils to inform them in their planning.

The Town Forum has developed a second plan for the Town. This is a brief summary of the actions that the Town Council and its partners are encouraged to undertake. The full plan is also available from the Town Council.

### **Building strong community**

**People like living in Southwell but this does depend on having good social structures here.**

Anti social behaviour is a concern, so the Forum will work with the Police in the Safer Neighbourhood Group for visible deterrence. We will work to clear the town of litter and graffiti. We will encourage the Town Council to review of cost and benefits of CCTV and to implement new technology to reduce its cost for the Town if possible. We will encourage further Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

There is no CAB and benefits advice in the town and the Forum will press for an outreach surgery in the town.

Access to medical facilities is good apart from NHS dentistry, and we will work with the Primary Care Trust to commission better provision in the town.

### **A vibrant trading economy**

**The Forum is keen to support and develop economic vibrancy in Southwell.**

The town centre's retail sector is vital. Traders make a significant contribution to the community feel for the town. We will encourage dynamic shop window displays. We will work with other councils to plan strategic support for shopping in the town with planning guideline policy and encourage the Business organisations to develop their directory of shopping in the town. We investigate the potential for the Saturday closure of King Street to encourage more shoppers to the town.

Tourism provides significant income for the town centre. We will support the Tourism Partnership with finance from the Town and District Councils. We want to encourage more 'half day stays' in the town, by working with the District Council to set up a coach park and a Touring Caravan site close near the town. We will be encouraging more B&B establishments. This strategy will be overseen by the Town's Tourism Partnership, set up by the Town Council, which has already led considerable work for the town.

We want to keep free car parks in the town with 2 hours free parking for all paid for by the Town. We will explore the introduction of P&R and good bus access to all areas of the town to Nottingham and Newark with the Bus Companies and County Council.

The Brackenhurst Campus of Trent University has a significant impact on the town and the Forum will work with both the University and Student Union to share our vision for the town and its environment.

### **A good place to live.**

**Leisure facilities are an important feature of the town**

The Town Council will seek to acquire recreation land by lease or purchase. The Town Council has a Town Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. The Council will be developing the play areas such as the War Memorial Park with new facilities. The Forum will involve the Minster and Lowes Wong School Councils in this work to make sure that the town is responding to its youngsters views and needs.

The Forum will press for continued finance from N&SDC for the Leisure Centre, and work with the Trustees and the Youth Centre to develop further vacation and outreach to support children's and young peoples' play.

**Equally important to residents is our green environment.**

Our waste collection is good here but we will campaign for additional collection of recyclables. We will also be looking for sites where residents can take recyclable waste, close to them.

Our footpaths in and around the town are important. We will map our paths and develop plans to ensure that they are easy to use. We will try to eliminate areas where their use is not easy. Dog mess is better, but still unpleasant, so we will campaign to make everyone aware of their responsibilities with better signs and facilities for dog owners.

There are still some areas where litter is an eyesore. We will work with the Minster School and Lowes Wong Junior School Councils to encourage everyone to take responsibility for our town. We will also work with resident action groups who clear up their local areas.

We are delighted that the Town won the Best Kept Village in Nottinghamshire in 2009. For a small town to win this is highly unusual; we will work hard to try to gain this award in future years.

**There is opposition to significant new building on the edges of the town.**

We will work with the planners to have sound Planning guidelines for the town. We will work to ensure that the utility Companies and the Councils have sound infrastructure for the town. Any new buildings will have to be sensitive to the town, and we recognise that there is a need for limited development especially for smaller and rented housing. We also support the Southwell Care Project search for supported housing in the town.

The road and pavements in the town are a concern. We will log poor surfaces inadequate and press for good repairs. We will be campaign to downgrade A612 to a B Road to reduce through traffic, now that the A46 is duelled.

We will encourage cycling with the development of three cross town paths and walking by pedestrian crossings key sites such as at Lowes Wong Schools, Ropewalk and Westgate. We will support the introduction of a 20mph zone for the town.