

# The Big Conversation

## Local Focus Group: neighbourhood plan consultation

# Cattsfield

### Moving around the village

More dropped kerbs are needed..

Pavements are too narrow.

Traffic speeds through Manningtree Road and also Bentley Lane.

More houses will mean more traffic.

Hard to turn right out of Bentley Lane.

Hard to turn right out of Cattsfield

Pavement swaps sides - have to keep crossing the road, dangerous for children etc.

Coaches from RHS speed through the village.

Suggestions for traffic calming:

- chicanes
- turn road into single lanes by creating 'priority' sections
- picket fences - important to make people see they are entering a village
- speed indicators are very good, but need to be moved around so people don't get used to them.

Would be good to have a cycleway.

Greenway is an excellent idea.

### Public transport

Big gap in buses between 7.30 and 9 - no bus to get into town at 9a.m.

Also a gap between 2.30 and 4.30 coming back.

5.40pm is the last bus.

Community transport idea - uncertain whether could be sustained using volunteer drivers.

## Village facilities

Area in front of the hairdresser and vet is a mess. Could it be improved using CIL money?

Would be very good to have play equipment or landscaped natural play features by the shop/behind the Hall/in the playing field. Needs to be in view of the shop patio.

Hall - would be good to have areas of relaxed seating/armchairs etc.

## Natural environment

Keep hedges and trees.

Identify the trees we want to keep so that we can act quickly if they are threatened.

Need to think about how we can protect the rest of the AONB from being built on in the way proposed in Church Road.

Drains are a major problem for some people in Cattsfield, costs more to insure, intermittent 'backing up'. What are the implications if new properties are built in the village? Can anything be specified which would influence future planning applications?

## Housing

We need 2/3 bedroom houses, affordable. Also single storey houses for older people to downsize to.

New housing needs to be low level, to fit in with the character of the village, which is mostly bungalows.

Some disagreement about whether social housing (ie any future housing association housing) should be limited to local people or people with a connection to the village. Some agreed, others thought we should take people in housing need wherever they are from.

## Businesses in the village

Need good broadband (telephone wires need upgrading); mobile signal.

Evidence sited of one local business person's need for a larger business unit which could employ up to six local people