

## **Annex D: Comments from on-street consultations and other LDF consultations.**

1. Approximately 60 people attended each of the 3 public consultation days held which were advertised in the local press 'York Press'. The events were successful in raising awareness and reaching people who may not otherwise have taken part in the consultation.
2. Some people gave comments but did not write them down for various reasons. The comments below are therefore not backed up by written forms and do not constitute a formal part of the evidence base. However, these comments are recorded as they were repeated by several residents:
  - a. Make the ring-road one way
  - b. Remove cyclists from the footstreets area
  - c. Don't allow any parking (including disabled parking) in the footstreets
  - d. Allow more parking for disabled people in the footstreets area
  - e. Allow parking in the footstreets area in the evening
  - f. Residents should have a swimming pool in the city centre
  - g. Bring the White Swan back into use
  - h. Don't allow cycle parking on Parliament Street – it soils clothing
  - i. Riverside walkway is a good idea
  - j. Don't allow the Yorkshire wheel to locate on North Street
  - k. Improve bus services in the evening
  - l. Use Ryedale House for the Council HQ
  - Development should be taking place at the Barbican, Hungate and Castle Piccadilly.
  - Some residents expressed a wish to replace the castle car park and use it for events or open space.
  - Complaints about Stonebow House and some felt the White Swan Hotel 'should be knocked down'
  - Several complaints about the bad impression public toilets in York must give to visitors
  - Bad state of marble arch and way into city centre from station
  - Need for a swimming pool in the city centre
  - York needs to retain small independent shops
  - Lower rates for retailers are needed as rates are killing off small businesses
  - Market should be for locals first and foremost, not foreign ones at the expense of local markets
  - Something should be done to improve Newgate Market, e.g. antique fair one day, fruit and veg. the next etc.

**Festival of Ideas 2 consultation for the Core Strategy (Hard to Reach Groups)**  
**Workshop 2: Role of the City Centre 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

27 people attended this workshop for the Core Strategy which included a sub group concentrating on the Role of the City Centre. Their comments are summarised below.

**General**

The City Centre needs a long term masterplan type document with consistent goals which don't change as a result of staff turnover etc.

Specific areas within the centre can be prioritised but it is important it is kept within a wider context.

Compact city and can cross the city centre on foot in 20 minutes which makes York special and pleasurable to get around.

**Conservation and Design**

The special historic qualities that make York special should be preserved because that is what people come to see.

Good variety of visual assets and special architecture.

Need to be very careful with the city centre, contemporary design should be small and discreet with the focus remaining on the older core of buildings.

Conservation of the city's heritage assets should be the starting point.

York City Centre should be a World Heritage Site.

**Navigating York**

Pedestrian areas should be pedestrian 24/7

Coney Street is a flat walkway and is pedestrian but cars don't respect pedestrians and it can feel dangerous at times.

Arriva buses find congestion a serious problem in York; this can be a problem as many people use the buses for facilities such as the hospital.

Congestion was problematic, Clifton Moor to Acomb was a gridlock along with the inner ring road at peak times. Congestion charging should be brought in for the City Centre; whilst congestion charging had been very successful elsewhere it also displaces the problem to the suburbs so this aspect would need to be considered.

The bus station is difficult for many and an interchange is badly needed.

There have been missed opportunities at York Central and other areas for this facility.

The Park and Ride Scheme is excellent although getting round York is expensive.

Leeds have a free bus that continually circles the city centre which would be good to replicate.

York has a good compact centre where people are never too far from anywhere else they need to be.

There are plenty of benches but these are usually concentrated in a few places. Street furniture needs to be more evenly distributed.

A small, compact city easily accessible on foot is a big attraction.

A lack of public toilets and those we have are in a poor state.

Urgent need for a bus station in the City Centre.

George Hudson is an unpleasant environment in which to arrive in the centre. The train station is a dangerous environment where there are accidents waiting to happen.

A tram/ light rail into the city centre which could link York centre to it's outskirts and possibly nearby urban areas is an option. Although we don't need any trams across the city centre.

CYC must appoint a new Cycling Officer

### **Tourism and Cultural Economy**

To make the city more enjoyable for residents and tourists the attractions and key features of York need to be joined up in some way to tell the story of York instead of a jigsaw of disjointed places.

Need better information at the information centre in York, clear maps with bus information for instance and proper signage for visitors. Modern technology could provide good audio visual facilities.

Proper signage needed for events as many people don't know what's happening where.

Tourism can be unsustainable as visitors travelling from long distances can be a high carbon scenario. York should encourage visitors to use the train prioritising UK residents above overseas visitors.

A problem with tourism in York is that many tourists don't respect the local environment.

At present York attracts a high volume of short stay low spend visitors and there is a need to encourage more longer stay higher spend tourists.

### **Retail**

Great range of shops and York should retain that variety, do not want to be homogenous like many cities are.

Council should support home grown shops not large outside entities.

Trans-shipment needs sorting out. When York shops are being loaded it stops the whole of York. BHS is a good example of how to do it as it does not stop business as usual.

Commercial cycles/load bikes are a sensible way to deliver to city centre shops instead of vans delivering a few racks of clothes etc.

No sensible food stores for families on lower incomes without a car for residents; the city centre stores are too expensive for these groups.

Food retail provision in the city centre is welcome but better solutions to transporting shopping home is needed.

There is a need to protect independent and niche retailers which are well appreciated by residents and visitors.

Newgate Market traders are unfairly treated and lose out to food festivals and continental markets on Parliament Street.

York should not be retail led; it is as an excellent shopping centre equal to other close cities.

The group felt that a large department store is not needed as many people come to York for the smaller niche shops that make York unique.

### **City Living and Leisure**

The toilets in York are very poorly maintained and are sometimes in a very dirty condition giving a very poor impression of the city.

Flats are expensive and converting over the shops was a good idea as long as the sound infiltration is effective.

Could Ryedale House be converted for residential?

Children must be better catered for in the city centre.

There should be more music venues such as the Basement Bar and Fibbers.

Cycle storage is not sufficient in York.

There are not enough seats for residents and visitors who need to sit down when walking through the city. The seating is not evenly distributed.

Footstreets should be extended to include Stonegate, Coney Street and Davey Gate and Spurriergate.

### **Evening Economy**

York closes down after 5 p.m. and there is a binge drinking culture that stops many people using York at night.

Many venues are underused – existing ones should be used rather than creating new ones, e.g. Anderson Hall at the Art Gallery and the Museum Gardens at night could be used for music and drama.

York Councillors need to be positive about encouraging different cultural activities to support more diverse evening activities.

Trumpeters at night with lighting at Clifford's Tower could become a feature as the Ghost Walks are now.

Need more music and drama events to bring in middle aged people at night who often perceive the city at night as a place of noisy youths drinking.

The garage in Blake Street became a shopping centre and this would be ideal for late night shopping.

Petergate area is very quiet and shops close early so there is nothing for people to do at night except drink.

York should be more than just a venue for stag and hen nights in an evening.