

Appendix 2 – Sherwood Library/Spondon Street Consultation Feedback

Aim of the consultation undertaken:

To inform Sherwood residents of the Council's intention to seek a developer to provide a viable high quality mixed use scheme on the Spondon Street site in Sherwood to include a new library, Police Contact Point, public toilets and appropriate parking.

Methods of consultation used:

This included posters being placed in local businesses and the library, a leaflet drop, posts on social media (Sherwood Facebook Page), drop in sessions held at Sherwood Library and Q&A sheets produced.

Overview of feedback received:

In total, the consultation generated 56 comments and an additional 14 residents provided their contact details asking to be kept informed as the scheme progresses. All the comments received regarding the development have been anonymised and are provided overleaf. However, for quick reference a summary of each of the main issues raised is provided below:

Sherwood Library - Overall, the feedback showed that the library is well used and is much valued by local residents. Some residents expressed a view that they are happy with the current library whilst others said a new or improved library is much needed. Some concerns were raised about any possible period of closure during the development.

Car Parking - Concerns were raised about any possible loss of car parking provision, many residents felt this would have a detrimental impact on local businesses.

Retail – this generated a mixed response ranging from a new supermarket/express size major retailer being much needed to others stating they feel a supermarket is not needed. It was also stated that more small shops are not needed due to some shop units in Sherwood already being difficult to let.

Housing – some residents expressed views that they would like to see some low cost/affordable housing. Housing for older persons was also suggested.

Other uses – in addition to the continued provision of a Police Contact point and public toilets, other views included the need for more community space in the form of communal meeting rooms, open space or garden, creative space, a play area and a café to be incorporated into the development. Comments were also made that although there are currently some publicly accessible toilets provided on Spondon Street these facilities could be improved for Library users.

Consultation Arrangements - Some residents stated more notice should have been provided about the drop in sessions and we have taken this on-board. As the scheme progresses there will be further opportunities to comment on proposals and we will aim to provide more notice for these.

Residents Comments on Development Proposals:

Library very handy & well organised. Helpful staff

I have significant concerns about the potential for Sherwood being without a library for a period of any development – it's well used by a whole range of the local community, including people needing the computers. Parking is a major issue in Sherwood already and we cannot afford to lose any more.

Would like a new library - it's well overdue

As a member of Sherwood Methodist Church I know that the church is always interested in what is happening in the community. Our premises are used by the community but having another facility located more centrally in Sherwood would be good.

It is very exciting to hear of potential plans. Please keep us informed.

I would prefer that the Sherwood Library remain a library in its own right & not become a part of a multi-purpose building like the ones in Hyson Green & St Anns. These both feel like doctors waiting rooms rather than places to relax. Perhaps the money needed to improve the current library could be sourced within the local community. The current library facility is friendly & welcoming and is a valuable local resource. I think it is important that it retains this ethos. This factor is more important than a swanky new building that no one uses or has limited opening hours.

Preserve & enhance the library provision. The car park is always full and needed by the local shops & synagogue. Old Family centre is an eyesore but green space & trees should be preserved. We probably don't need another supermarket.

Would like to see library face lift. The land behind the library could be developed. I would prefer to see housing rather than a supermarket. I feel strongly that the car park should stay with at least the current number of spaces. Loss of spaces could impact businesses already in Sherwood.

I would like to be given any info/developments as they occur. Obviously I want to have a decent library here in Sherwood - an improved one.

Communal meeting room, public toilets, police neighbourhood watch point.
Refurbished/redesigned library area, garden, seating area- reading/outdoor talks

Initial thoughts are to keep a library & car park but do something with the family centre

Happy with the library as it is

Keep Library or replace with better. Need some parking. Like Children's Centre or creative centre, shops and market noisy.

More of a community hub with multi use space for events etc. Community groups. Possible care home to work with County. Sure Start? Brings in more people to benefit shops

Would like a new library with a car park

Like facilities for children, café, library to a high quality with toilet, outdoor space for children even if there is a charge

Would be good to have a new library as the present one needs a lot of repairs. Hopefully an equivalent size - would be nice to have a toilet & a garden included. And be ground floor if possible. Sherwood could do with some low cost residential housing too. Would prefer a standalone library & not be swallowed up in a multi-function place like Mary Potter. Some green space please. Only concern is that a developer is interested in making money. Hopefully the council will consider & insist on community needs being met.

Keep the library at all costs. Ground floor access please. Keep same staff and facilities

A new supermarket would be a great asset - much needed

I would like a bigger library that has disability access, has many computers and desks to work at. It would be great to use the space already sitting empty. Although it is good for wildlife, I hate to see it sitting bare and it would be useful if the library could be moved there.

Please include requirements for public car park in any future agreement with a developer. Also generous allowance for public use of the land. Ensure no derogation from the public services agreed

A little café area & a small garden area to bring people in. A separate room to use for meetings and talks

No more small shop premises as this South end finds it difficult to let. However an express size major retailer would be great plus some older persons housing and off course a Library. Car parking with new gym available for public.

feel very uncomfortable about selling off public land to private developers

The new library needs a delivery/service area, parking community space (for library and other events). Personally I would try and bring the flower shop into the development site and offer the owner space in the new building. I would build a new library on the car park either with parking above or below the building then the existing library site could be developed for housing including affordable units (maybe like the flats behind the Vale PH). The toilets and police contact point could be put in the new library site or one off the small shops on Mansfield Rd

Sherwood Neighbourhood Facebook Page

Can you just confirm as I am unable to attend the drop in due to work. Is the stipulation to provide a library and Police Contact point to be on the development site incorporated with whatever is built? Or can they just put a library and PCP somewhere else in Sherwood as part of the deal?

NCC response: *Ideally we will be looking for the new Library and Police Contact Point to be situated on the development site, in a building fully owned by the council. If any developer suggests an alternative locations its suitability would have to be carefully considered and costs would have to be covered by the overall deal.*

In that case the idea is sound. That end of Mansfield Road (Sherwood shops) could do with a bit of regen.

This sounds like a good way to fund improvement to this community resource, when so many libraries have been victims of reducing budgets. I hope you find a creative developer!

If any project goes forward it should only include a library! Enough land has already been sold to private developers who promise to build 'affordable homes' then end up building a whole estate of houses that average around £200k each like they did just off Edwards Lane.

So no car park then, I'm presuming a developer would use that land to squeeze as many houses on as possible!

NCC response: *There may still be parking - developers would put forward their plans on what they would do with the land which could still include parking and may not be housing - it could be shops, offices etc. The requirement that developers would need to keep the library and Police Contact Point . If parking is something you feel is important then please pop into the drop in sessions or email Regeneration@nottinghamcity.gov.uk*

Losing the car park would be very bad for local businesses, why does the car park have to be included in the development?

Please why would developers volunteer to leave a public car park.

What about a car park with a library above it?

Or a car park underneath?

Would the library remain the property of the council? It feels like a move towards privatisation.

Excellent idea and much needed.

that looks like it means losing the car park?

- **NCC response:** *Possibly, but not necessarily. Developers may still include parking within their plans - at this stage it is impossible to say what they may want to use the land for, other than what has been specified.*

Sherwood cannot afford to lose a car park! First I heard about it. Good idea but mustn't lose the car park.

I attended the drop in session today. I was advised that a library would remain in Sherwood and the freehold of the building would be owned by the city council. They apparently have developers interested and are working to present a report to councillors by January. This means there isn't much time to express views. The requirements need to be stated asap. So if it's important to us to have a community open space as part of the development we need to state this and request it's included in specifications that developer will be required to bid on. With regard to parking I was advised that parking is considered in relation to the development. So in order to maintain enough parking for shoppers etc this needs to be stated as a requirement otherwise it will be minimal. So this is an opportunity to express view on what we would like to see in Sherwood. I have no idea if the council will really listen or consider the development in a wider context of the needs of Sherwood as a whole but let's hope they do!

Emails:

As a family we are a regular library user, coming once a week for books, once a week to use the seating for private study and also attend tots time on a Friday and the craft sessions sometimes in a Saturday with my twins. It is an important part of the Sherwood community.

Regeneration of the facilities would be great, as long as parking space is also maintained. Parking can be difficult in Sherwood and is essential for families like us with a child with mobility issues. Would this mean that there would be no library services available during the periods of redevelopment?

NCC Response: *Thank you for your email, I will ensure your comments are fed back. You raised two specific points which I will try to address as follows:*

Parking – Although the development site does include the public car park currently situated on Spondon Street it is expected that a number of parking spaces will be provided as part of the overall new development. The amount of spaces will depend on the type of development being proposed.

Closure of the library during redevelopment works – It is difficult to know at this stage what the impact will be regarding the continuation of the library service during any redevelopment works. Temporary relocation will be considered; however if any period of closure is required this will be kept to a minimum.

This consultation exercise was only intended as a starting point to let people know that although we are exploring redevelopment options proposals, the intention is that a library will remain somewhere on the site. This is the very start of what is likely to be a lengthy process and there will be further opportunities for consultation. We will try to provide more notice and publicise further afield for future events. I will add your contact details to our list of respondents so that you are kept up to date on progress. In the meantime I attach a copy of a Q&A sheet for your information, please share with family and friends.

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I was at the consultation session at Sherwood Library on Saturday, and have also had a conversation with someone at the local plans team in October about the proposed Sherwood Library development, both of which were useful and informative.

I live opposite the back of the proposed development site, and wanted to flag up a couple of concerns in relation to the proposed development.

These are:

- Light
 - Mansfield Street is part of a block of flat fronted terrace houses which are East West facing. We have light in the back of the house in the morning, and in the afternoon/evening at the front. If a large building was constructed in front of the row, it would have a significant impact on the amount of light the houses get
- Trees
 - There are at least 20 mature cherry trees within the proposed site, and one mature birch directly outside the library. These are all well loved local landmarks, the cherry trees are spectacular in the spring, and the birch is decorated every year by the Sherwood Arts Week crafters. It would be very disappointing if these were felled as part of the development.
- Parking

- With the proposal to close the car park, there may be a knock on effect to residents parking. I have a colleague who is part of the Synagogue, and he mentioned they are very dependant on the car park for their congregation
- Site Management
 - We recently had Severn Trent replacing a pipe, and they were on site for two days. Mansfield Street is quite narrow, and this rendered the street almost impassable. If the development was over a six month/one year period, this would need to be tight through in terms of residents access

Many thanks for taking the time to consult the community so early on in the process.

NCC Response: *Thank you for taking time to attend the consultation event and forwarding your email which flags up the issues you would like to be taken into account should a suitable scheme be identified and progressed. I will ensure your comments are fed back and I will add your contact details to our list of respondents so that you are kept up to date on progress.*

As I may have mentioned when we spoke, this is the very start of what is likely to be a lengthy process and there will be further opportunities for consultation. In the meantime I attach a copy of a Q&A sheet for your information, in case you did not pick one up at the consultation event, please feel free to share with family and friends.

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I spoke to you at Sherwood Library on Friday morning about the future of this library. It was very useful to be able to see the plans and have the opportunity to speak to you and your colleague.

However, I would be grateful if you could please clarify a question I have regarding the proposal.

I received the impression the council was intending to sell the land to a developer and thereby relinquish all public ownership of a new library? Have I understood this correctly?

Or is the intention for any future library to be funded or jointly run as a shared enterprise, or for the council to rent the library on a lease?

NCC Response: *Thank you for your email, I am pleased you found the information we provided useful and I will ensure your comments are fed back.*

We are proposing to ask developers for their ideas for the site and should a suitable scheme be identified we will sell the land to them. As part of the agreement to sell the land we will stipulate that the development is to include a new Library and Police Contact Point and the land where this is to be located is to remain in the Council ownership. Therefore the new library and Police Contact Point will be owned and managed by the City Council.

This consultation exercise was only intended as a starting point to let people know that although we are exploring redevelopment options proposals, the intention is that a library will remain somewhere on the site. As I may have mentioned when we spoke, this is the very start of what is likely to be a lengthy process and there will be further opportunities for consultation. We will try to provide more notice and publicise further afield for future events.

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We use the library regularly in particular with our daughters who love reading and drawing. There are two major concerns I have with the redevelopment plans, first is the potential loss of car parking which I believe would have a huge negative impact on Sherwood as a whole and NEEDS to be retained. Second is the loss of the library for 12-18 months whilst redevelopment happens, local residents NEED a temporary replacement service/location so that we do not lose the library during this time.

NCC Response: *Thank you for your email, I will ensure your comments are fed back. You raised two specific points which I will try to address as follows:*

Parking – This was raised a number of times during the consultation. Although the development site does include the public car park currently situated on Spondon Street it is expected that a number of parking spaces will be provided as part of the overall new development. The amount of spaces will depend on the type of development being proposed.

Closure of the library during redevelopment works – It is difficult to know at this stage what the impact will be regarding the continuation of the library service during any redevelopment works. Temporary relocation will be considered, however if any period of closure is required, this will be kept to a minimum.

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Just saw a article on a Facebook page about a proposal for a new Sherwood library. I couldn't agree more and was just talking about it the other week to my wife.

We have lived in Carrington for a few years now and my wife and myself are from different areas. Last week we ventured out to Sherwood and think it's a great happening place but lacks a little more life I think from families.

Having a new baby boy we needed to use the Internet and my wife thought it would a great idea to get some books to read to the baby. However when we found the library, we was in a huge shock and disappointment.

It's felt so out of date and was a building left to rot away over the next decade. I was hoping to find a library bursting with family energy and warm smiles. But found a place that reminded me of a dated council job centre.

I would say this place needs to be knocked down and some thought needs to go into the new building, with some huge thought around families, the elderly, young people wanting somewhere to go to develop their skills for the job market. Also young children who are just starting to find that magic in books that I remember so fondly as a child.

A community library should be a wonderful magical service for the community, and the staff working there can do this too.

Maybe a little place for children to sit while Mothers read up on things to help them develop or simply fill out forms.

A place to grab a coffee and talk.

A place to use the Internet and print off documents.

A place to sit and read and borrow great books.

A place to use the toilet too (members only)

A place to sit and read and let the world pass you by.

Anyway I have gone on enough. I am more than happy to share my ideas for Sherwood and the library if you want to contact me.

NCC response: *Thank you for taking the time to send such a detailed response. I will ensure your comments are fed back and I will add your contact details to our list of respondents so that you are kept up to date on progress. In the meantime I attach a copy of a Q&A sheet for your information, please feel free to share with family and friends.*

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Please find below my comments:

1. I understand that Nottingham City Council (NCC) is committed to retaining a library within Sherwood and ideally in the same area.
2. I understand that NCC will own the freehold of the library to ensure that it remains.
3. Any development that takes place needs to take into account the needs of Sherwood as a growing business, shopping and community area.
4. Any parking requirements stipulated should be in line with what is needed for Sherwood as a whole and not limited by regulations for the development contained within the 'red lines' of the site NCC selling.
5. By not taking into account parking requirements of Sherwood as a whole there is a risk that the area will suffer as people cant come to shop, eat, visit due to lack of parking. As such there is a risk to the growth of Sherwood.
6. Parking is already at risk through the increased use of double yellow lines (see comment below) and the uncertainty over the impact of any loss in parking at the new gym at the north end of Sherwood. (eg. Double yellow lines are now in effect on Elmswood Gardens which stop parking 24/7 despite their only being an issue for part of the day Monday to Friday)
7. Any development should take into account the need for a community space for use by regular markets - food and craft.
8. Residents should be consulted on the planting of the two trees per one tree cut down as part of new development.
9. Any additional income raised from the sale of the site should be invested in Sherwood. I understand that it's not possible to cross subsidise by selling off other land to pay to redevelop the library so it should be that income from sale of land in Sherwood should be invested in the local community.
10. Future development consultations should include details on spending plans for additional income from sale of the land.

11. Details should be added to NCC website and easily found including NCC commitment to owning freehold of the Sherwood library. (as at today a search for the information has given me no results using terms such as 'sherwood library' 'regeneration sherwood')

NCC Response: *Thank you for taking the time to attend the consultation event and forwarding your comments. I will ensure they are fed back and I will add your contact details to our list of respondents so that you are kept up to date on progress.*

As we may have mentioned when we spoke, this is the very start of what is likely to be a lengthy process and there will be further opportunities for consultation.

In the meantime I attach a copy of a Q&A sheet for your information, in case you did not pick one up at the consultation event, please feel free to share with family and friends.

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just picking up on the various emails, and I'm afraid the very poorly organised consultation event at the library (day time and no notice)

BUT yes our library is not fit for purpose, staff have terrible conditions (I've seen their kitchen!!) and it doesn't work well for events. i think most people would agree, and yes the council doesn't have the money to do much itself. so looking at a developer is in principle a good idea... I think all but the most naïve would agree with that.

BUT how's the plans for Angel Row going... same idea. is it worth seeing if that works before you try the same idea elsewhere?

How about better consultation were the community can look at what they want from a library? this minimum requirements would be needed in any tender agreement, for instance a hire room for activities / talks with induction loop) , space for prams, , space for computers, away from screaming kids, parking for disabled, and short term drop off.

The impact of loosing the full car parking compliment here would affect not just the library but shops down Haydn Road and those around Roots shop.

So in principle yes I think looking at the developer idea is good, but please keep our community involved in the plans.

NCC Response: *Thank you very much for your email with helpful comments about Sherwood Library which we will ensure are taken into account. We are at the very start of what could be a lengthy process and if a developer comes forward who is able to deliver a development which meets the council's aspirations we will consult again and ensure that there are more opportunities to comment on the proposals.*

As you say, a similar approach is being taken at Angel Row. Whilst this is a different situation in that it is a city centre location we will utilise experience from that process to help progress proposals for Sherwood Library and hope to deliver two high quality new buildings.

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It is an excellent and well used library with friendly well informed librarians who remember people's faces.

The children's library is inviting and also separate which helps children and adults. Also makes events there easier. There is a good space to read papers etc and the computers seem always well used. Right by bus stop and with good car park nearby and toilet nearby.

It would not be helpful to conflate it with police base or other shops (Sherwood is well served for shops; why compromise those small businesses?)

NCC response: *Thank you very much for your email with helpful comments about Sherwood Library which we will ensure are taken into account. We are at the very start of what could be a lengthy process and if a developer comes forward who is able to deliver a development which meets the council's aspirations we will consult again to ensure that there are more opportunities to comment on the proposals.*