

The Transport and Infrastructure (T & I) Group focuses on all aspects of travel across and around our Area, as well all those vital infrastructure services that keep our communities running efficiently. Our role is to set out what **new developments** need to include (and, where appropriate, fund) to minimise any adverse impact on travel, and contribute to sustainable growth, in our neighbourhood.

1. What sort of things can a Neighbourhood Plan cover for T & I?

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|---|--|
| ✓ Traffic: speed, flow, volume, access | ✓ Improving transport connections within our Area, Borough and to key destinations |
| ✓ Integrating public transport for better journeys | ✓ Environment and road safety |
| ✓ Sustainable travel, eg. pedestrian links, cycleways and storage | ✓ Appropriate car parking |
| ✓ Natural environment (eg. streetscape) | ✓ Energy & water infrastructure (drains, ditches) |

So, as a community we may wish to consider policies for new developments that, eg:

- provide good pedestrian and cycle connections to local shops and community facilities to reduce car use, support local facilities and make our villages more sustainable
- help improve the availability and safety of ways to travel to school without using a car
- contribute to improving access to rail and bus services, supporting sustainable travel but also minimising any local impact of eg. traffic congestion or increased demand for parking
- address flooding and drainage issues.

2. What does Solihull's Local Plan say about T & I for our neighbourhood?

Nothing specific to our Area. A strong overall focus on:

- 1) *managing* travel demand with what we have now, rather than building new facilities (one reason why Knowle bypass was dropped);
- 2) moving from car use to public transport, walking, and cycling



What does this mean for our local plans, with car parking currently a top priority issue and increasing demand for rail travel from Dorrige?

In 10 years, rail journeys from Dorrige have increased x7, with a knock on impact on parking

The recent 'Solihull Connected' Green Paper explores possible transport changes driven by significant growth in the Borough (JLR, NEC and Birmingham Airport expansion, HS2, UK Central)



How do we maximise opportunities (eg. new jobs), and minimise adverse impacts (eg. increased travel) from these growth plans?

Solihull's Local Plan requires new developments to demonstrate how they:

- enable access to local services, employment, education and shopping facilities without a car
- maximise use of existing transport and infrastructure, with minimal impact on congestion, safety etc

3. What can't be covered by a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is important to remember that the Plan is all about what we want *future development* to look like in relation to *land use* - ie. rather than smaller changes to what exists today.

So, we need to make sure that, through the Plan, we create longer term solutions to today's issues.

For example, in the Plan we can consider allocating land for more car parking



The Forum works closely with the Knowle Society (KS) and Dorridge and District (DDRA) Residents Associations, who lobby Solihull Council on day-to-day issues.

We share common goals to improve our community, so that together we cover the both the short and longer term.

For example, the KS and DDRA are already progressing a range of immediate issues with Solihull Council, including on-street parking

Some current issues can only really be properly addressed through longer term planning for our villages - the sooner we get the Neighbourhood Plan in place the better

Our aim is to ensure transport and infrastructure facilities are sufficient to serve all who live or work in our community, maximising opportunities, and minimising adverse effects, from new development.

4. How are we responding to local opinion on needs and priorities?

The (limited) local feedback received so far has raised a number of priority areas and issues:



- car parking capacity in Knowle and Dorridge
- road safety, particularly around Dorridge station
- improving bus services and how these link to rail services to improve overall journey times
- improving access to Dorridge station from different parts of the neighbourhood

We really do need much more feedback from across the community, including your views on:



what you consider to be the main T & I planning opportunities and issues, eg:

- where we, as a community, want potential funding from any future development to be spent
- how we might plan to reduce car usage so as to reduce pressure on car parking and traffic congestion at peak times
- what we need to do to improve public transport - between our villages, to local shops and to popular surrounding destinations such as the Airport and NEC (inc the new 'Resort World')?
- how we plan to overcome barriers that prevent more of us from walking or cycling?
- any concerns you may have about infrastructure services, eg. potential flooding, mobile and broadband connection.

5. What stage are we at, and what's happening now?

Our first step is to establish the facts - use Solihull Council's most recent data, including that collected for the 'Solihull Connected' report, to build a much more detailed *local* analysis relevant to our communities

To do this, we have planned and started activities to:

- seek out and listen to residents' views
- analyse transport and infrastructure related data, eg. transport need assessments for our area; forecast population growth, etc
- talk to local providers of public transport services and transport user groups
- liaise with other Focus Groups about related aspects, eg. design of residential or on-site car parking for new homes

This gives us the necessary 'evidence base' to start to:

- 1) Create an accurate picture of T & I related opportunities, issues and priorities
- 2) Understand how existing transport and infrastructure meets community needs and/or wishes - and where any shortfalls lie
- 3) Start defining and drafting possible planning policies as a basis for community consultation.

6. What do you need from members of the community (ie. from ME!)

Please help us gather the data we need by:

- contributing to a household survey we are designing so as to obtain as wide a set of views as possible
- making your views heard at various organised events and at meetings we will be attending with local clubs, schools, church groups, playgroups etc.



We will be doing this over the next few months to give us a solid evidence base, from which we can then start to think about drafting T & I planning options and policies.

Success depends on us being able to prove that the facts and figures used to support our Plan are drawn from a representative sample of the local population – and therefore cannot be ignored.

WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.

7. Want to know more?

The Transport & Infrastructure Group meets monthly. If you would like to get involved or to know more, please contact Louisa Jakeman (on 01564 773067) or rozpocet2@yahoo.co.uk