

Denmead Neighbourhood Plan – Community Engagement Work Package
Report on projects run by the Denmead Infant and Denmead Junior Schools

DRAFT (v2)

“What’s good, what’s bad and a plan for Denmead”

Background

1. On the basis that community engagement should involve everyone across the village should they wish to take part and that residents much affected by the village that we plan for in 2030 are those who are now of Primary School age, both of the schools in Denmead were invited to take part in a project that they would organise, based on the Marmite survey – what’s good, what’s bad and what would should be done for Denmead. The Junior School set a half-term challenge to its pupils to prepare their ideas and the Infant School held class discussions in Years 1 and 2 where the ideas they raised were recorded.

2. The analysis of the documents prepared by both of the school was undertaken by Nikki Bowler and other staff of Cougar Automation.

Summary and Commentary

3. The good features of Denmead are that it is a small tranquil village with a friendly atmosphere and caring residents. The amenities included within the village are sufficient for everyday life. The high street provides resources of food and services such as bank and haircuts. These are necessary for the main community. The local park includes various clubs and activities; these include tennis, football and bowls. As well as this there is a play area suited for younger children to enjoy. There is a vast selection of walking trails throughout the village that show off the countryside and can be combined with picnics on a warm day. The community works together to bring activities for all throughout the year, such as the dinosaur derby which is run every summer and hosts various events that can be found at most fairs; and a community carol service held in the centre of the village with the local shops providing food and drink for attendees.

4. The features disliked in Denmead are firstly the skate park, as this has only provided a location where adolescents group together in mass and create disrupting noise for local resident as well as preventing younger children from enjoying the facility. The Denmead green gap is shortened each year by developers building more houses on it; such that the likelihood of a future mergence between Denmead and Waterlooville will eventually occur. The road works throughout the village, although a necessity, are prolonged and cause disruption to traffic as well as reducing sales in the local shops.

Improvements for Denmead:

5. Denmead would benefit with a wider selection of shops including a butchers.
- Increasing the sports facilities in the area by building an all-weather pitch; this would allow constant use throughout the year for clubs as well as provide for new clubs like hockey and netball which are currently unavailable.

- Restore the pond near the Harvest Home pub as it is completely overgrown and now barely visible.
- Combined maintenance with the utilities, for example when a gas pipe is being repaired/replaced any other maintenance should be carried out like electric cables or water pipes. This would reduce the amount of disruption.
- Placing speed bumps near entrances to the schools to reduce the traffic speed on the roads; this would provide more safety for young children.

Summary of Ideas/Evidence

6. From the Infant school

Pros:

- School
- Park (swings, roundabout, skate park)
- White Hart pub (climbing frame, bouncy castle)
- Church
- Shops (sweets)
- Woods

Cons:

- Park (contaminated sand pit, overwhelming presence of big kids at skate park)

Things to add:

- Swimming pool
- Trampoline
- Pet shop
- Football club
- Theme park
- Prison
- Fast food
- Holiday homes
- Supermarkets
- Planetarium
- More woods
- Cinema
- Theatre
- Shelter at parks
- Farm to feed animals

7. From the Junior school

Pros:

- Shops
- Restaurants
- White hart
- Park
- Not too built up
- Happy place (friendly)

- Health centre

Cons:

- Skate park
- Green area being reduced for housing
- Litter
- Pavilion always shut
- Lots of road works

Improve:

- More activities
- Regular upkeep of park utilities
- Picnic areas
- Climbing wall
- Football pitch
- Swimming pool
- Toy shop
- BMX track
- Library
- More activities benches in park
- More flowers
- More sports
- More public toilets
- Paths in park
- Speed bumps by school to control traffic speed
- Butchers
- Choice of cafes
- Flood lights in park
- Sports shop
- Signs to attractions (Prisoner Of War camp in woods)

8. A summary comparison of both school's ideas

Pros:

- School
- Park
- White hart pub
- Shops
- Woods

Cons:

- Skate park
- Litter

To add:

- Swimming pool
- Football pitches
- More food sources (cafes, butchers)
- More activities