

VISIT TO ST. MARGARET’S SCHOOL TO TALK ABOUT THE ANGMERING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

On 4th June the Chair of the Steering Group made a short presentation to the youth council at St. Margaret’s School. Approximate ages were 8/10 years.

Although it is appreciated that this age will not be able to take part in the final referendum, we felt it was important that their ideas should be encouraged as they will become adults during the life time of this plan and it therefore affects them as much as anyone else.

The children were extremely polite and showed an interest in how they could take part in making the Parish a better place to live in.

The following suggestions were made by the children and were written down by the lead of the group. Although they realise that many of their suggestions may not be possible, some made were reasonable and thoughtful and deserve to be referred to over the lifetime of this plan with a view to even possibly implementing some of them in due course.

A Water Fountain on the village green	
A car park in the village centre	Even at this age they realised the problems with parking in the village centre.
Traffic lights to help slow down the traffic speeding through the village	Their concern was the heavy and speeding traffic throughout the village that was killing their pets – dogs and cats.
New Brownie hut	Explained that the current Scout Hut was under review for being rebuilt.
More toys in the park	They referred to the open space in Palmer Road as the Park. The playground there was very poor and not of much use to anyone. The equipment seriously needed upgrading and needed to include items that could be used by older children. I explained that this playground was in fact owned by Arun DC and therefore not something the Parish Council could work on, on their own account. However, perhaps a joint venture with the Parish Council and Arun DC to work together to upgrade this playground could be looked at in the near future and even include consultation with the local children as to the type of equipment they would like to see there.
Exercise machines	They would like to have exercise equipment such as the ones currently installed at Mayflower Park, in the Palmer Road ‘Park’.
Bad people at Skate Park	This was mainly about vandalism and litter, making it an unpleasant experience to use the area. It was explained that the skatebowl area was in the process of being updated with a new tarmac apron and a professional graffiti project to paint the bowl was being carried out between the Parish Council and The Angmering School. CCTV was also being investigated by the PC to help stop the vandalism problem. Re-introduction of the environmental wardens to collect litter was also being considered. It was also hoped that a professional BMX track would also be built there for all ages to use.

Remove trees from the green as make the area too dark.	A short history lesson provided on the pond that used to be in that area before the green. Why Water Lane was called such and how the river was diverted through a culvert under the ground so that the pond was no longer needed. When the green was put there the Lime trees were planted and they are now over 100 years old so would not be allowed to be removed.
Bins and Dog Pooh bins Village meetings Dog Wardens to wear casual clothes.	A very emotive issue about the problem of Dog pooh. Very grown up suggestions of having a meeting in the village hall to explain the problems and ask people to ensure they cleared up after their dogs. They suggested we employed more dog wardens and they wore casual clothes so the offenders would not realise who they were and they could then catch them more easily.
New place for dogs to run about	
A dog pen	The suggestion was that perhaps a large pen could be installed in the park so that dogs could run about inside that freely without affecting other people.
A Lake	Lovely idea but where?
A water park – playground sprinklers	This is a very interesting suggestion and would certainly make an excellent project to consider incorporating with a children’s playground. Have promised to look into this further.
Hill issue with flooding	Village floods because all the water runs downhill. Need something at the top of the hills to stop it coming down.
The garden by the Lamb being converted into a park/water park	St. Nicholas garden. Explained this was a sacred area and as such nothing was allowed to put there other than what was already there. Site of old church with many graves still under the ground.
Updating the inside of the library	Excellent news that they used the library and wanted to see it repaired and updated inside to make it more welcoming. Explained a wish to turn part of the library into a museum/heritage centre and this was warmly accepted.

Overall impression was that they were passionate about their pets and also loved water features. Both were the most common factors.