

Issue 2

New Horizons

a community consultation

Come along
in November
and you could
win £25 of
vouchers



Sentinel 

The future of Freemantle, Taverner and Westray

Your say on what you want

Thank you to everyone who came along to our community consultation events last month and congratulations to our prize draw winner, Jeanette Patching of Freemantle Close, who won £25 of shopping vouchers.

We had some great feedback and this newsletter includes a summary of what you told us about the housing, parking, garages, open space, play area, woods, lighting, landscaping, anti-social behaviour and other issues that are very important to you. If you weren't able to come along you can still have your say, visit www.sentinelha.org.uk/newhorizons, where you can also see the full list of comments, download a copy of the feedback form – fill it out and post it back to us.

We have now appointed architects, Kenn Scaddan Associates, to work together with residents and our regeneration team. We are analysing all the feedback from the events and the individual meetings with residents to prepare a plan of options for the neighbourhood.

We will be setting up a residents design team to work with us through the detailed design process and to draw up options which will be presented at the next consultation events in November. We'd really appreciate your views on these proposals at the events in November and please get in touch by telephone or through our website if you are interested in joining the design team. Here is what you've told us so far:



What you like:

- I like the size of the bedrooms in the maisonettes
- Like overlooking the field
- The current homes are a good size
- Good location for the town – good bus route and train station

What you don't like:

- Lots of alleyways
- Children rollerblade along the decking and you can hear it in the flats
- Children access the flat roofs which is very dangerous
- It's too noisy and not enough privacy – youths gather on the deck ways
- No insulation in properties; they're very cold and expensive to heat
- Condensation problems – windows need to be replaced
- Maisonettes are not safe for children
- Pigeons are a problem
- Stairways poorly designed and notorious for ASB due to poor lighting
- Stairs too narrow to get a buggy up
- Access to upper levels needs to be blocked off and used only for residents

What you would like to see instead:

- Support the demolition of the flats if they were replaced with decent housing
- We want you to modernise the existing buildings and make the stairs safer
- Would like to see more traditional brick houses with front and back gardens and a garden gate
- Good neighbours and community here. Would like to move back with the same neighbours
- More family housing needed
- Need for four bedroom houses
- Like two level houses
- Secure bike storage would be good
- Better mix of housing and good interaction with existing houses needed – not them and us
- Some garages needed in the new homes
- Lockable sheds if demolishing garages



Open space

What you like:

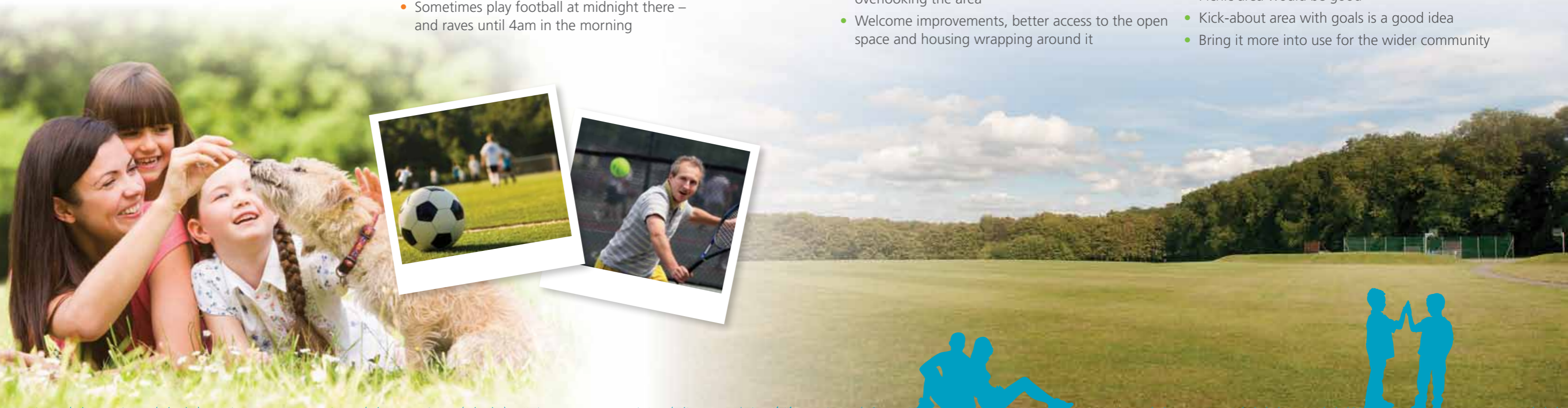
- Important to keep the open space but improve it
- Don't want to compromise outside space
- This is well used for bikes, playing tennis, football and dog walking

What you don't like:

- Dangerous, uneven surface
- Open space looks tired now
- Under-used, anti-social behaviour, dog fouling
- Children can't play on it unsupervised
- Don't feel safe at night there – wouldn't let my wife go out alone without me
- Sometimes play football at midnight there – and raves until 4am in the morning

What you would like to see instead:

- Like the field but level it out for wheel chair and mobility scooters
- Bring the road round into Freemantle and into the field for new housing
- Would like smaller open space with houses overlooking the area
- Welcome improvements, better access to the open space and housing wrapping around it
- Make it more secure and open it up for more people to use
- Landscape it with a central area and small children's park
- Would like to see paths, five-a-side football and nature trail
- Picnic area would be good
- Kick-about area with goals is a good idea
- Bring it more into use for the wider community



Play area

Your children's play area is important to you but this one is under-used and could be improved. Here are some of your comments:

What you don't like:

- Under-used due to play equipment, broken glass and position
- Wouldn't let my children play there as hooded gangs and bad language
- It's too old fashioned

What you would like to see instead:

- Want a safer play area with better equipment
- Update play area and make it more central
- Toddler play equipment needed
- We should be consulted if you plan a new play area – it should be well thought out
- Need park facilities for older children as well



Woodland

What you like:

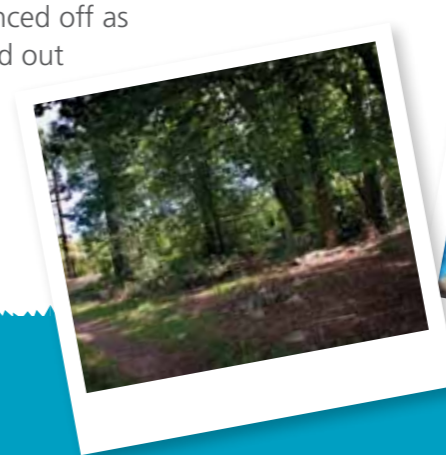
- Keep allotments and wooded area and maybe consider picnic area
- Woods are nice for nature
- Great for dog walkers
- Good noise barrier to the motorway

What you don't like:

- Do not feel safe in the woods
- Burnt out cars
- Drug use, needles found there
- Ride their motorbikes through there
- Allegations of organised dog fighting in the woods by the play area on a Sunday
- Waste of a bit of countryside

What you would like to see instead:

- Better management of woodland areas
- Would like woodland to be fenced off as a non useable area and thinned out
- Would like to keep the woods but make them safer – less remote



Garages

What you like:

- Rely on them for storage
- Some are used for small businesses eg. mechanics
- Would need garage spaces

What you don't like:

- Number of garages have been broken into – not safe
- Don't like kids playing in the garage courts, not safe
- Lots of graffiti
- Too many garages – parking could be improved

What you would like to see instead:

- Garage areas need more lighting
- No need for garages
- Won't need garages if loft space available

Parking

What you don't like:

- Too many cars parking on the road
- Car parks are under used
- Noise problem from parked cars
- Unattractive concrete – parking areas do not look very nice
- Car park too big as designed for football coaches

What you would like to see instead:

- Better parking needed
- Visibility on the roads a problem – need yellow lines on the bends
- Would like parking outside house
- Allocated parking would be good

Rubbish



What you don't like:

- There is a rubbish problem. It will get worse with this one bin per household
- People come and dump their rubbish in the big bins from elsewhere. It isn't fair, the bin situation should be looked at
- Rubbish in gardens and in streets – fly tipping in the road
- Cars dumped in area under underpasses

What you would like to see instead:

- Closer recycling facility near the playing field but not to be vandalised
- Need proper bins and dog bins
- Clear ownership of bins as anyone can use them



Street lighting

You had mixed views on the overall quality of lighting in the area, some residents like the new lighting, some feel that it has made the estate darker and is in the wrong place.

What you would like to see instead:

- Would like to see lighting in the open spaces to make it feel a lot safer
- Need light in underpass



Trees and landscaping

What you don't like:

- Do not want to see more trees – problems with leaves and sap
- So many weeds around the trees

What you would like to see instead:

- Get rid of the trees – roots splitting the concrete
- Landscaped areas need to be maintained
- We have an issue with the trees now, no sun as it blocks it out, all sap – do not want trees near houses
- Remove sycamore trees – too sticky – replace with prettier trees



What will happen next?



Now that we've heard your views about the area, the majority of you would like to see more family houses with gardens, better equipped and centralised play areas and open space, as well as improved parking areas and storage. Issues around anti-social behaviour, rubbish, street lighting and landscaping will all be addressed as part of the new designs for the neighbourhood.

We have the funding in place to be able to:

1. Provide new affordable homes, most of which will be houses, at this stage we expect just 25% will be flats. There will be homes for rent and also shared ownership and these will be built to modern standards, making them cheaper to heat and easier to maintain.
2. Improve the "green community space" by redesigning it to suit the needs of local people with better security, lighting and access, helping to decrease the amount of anti-social behaviour currently associated with it.

3. Improve community safety including decreasing the fear of crime and improving the quality of life for residents in the area.
4. Create modern, well designed homes, improved road access, landscaping and better use of parking areas.

We have a strict time limit on the funding from the Homes and Communities Agency which means that any new homes in the area must be completed by 2015. Once we have your feedback on our initial designs in November, we'll incorporate your ideas into a plan which will be available to view in January 2012. We'd expect to put a planning application together in the spring of 2012.

Our commitment to residents

We will continue to keep you informed and involved in the planning and redesign of the neighbourhood at every stage. We hope to see many more of you at the next consultation events in November, where you'll have a chance to see and comment on the draft plans. These will include options for new homes, the improved open space, play areas and

road layouts based on your feedback. Once again we'd like your views so we can make any further changes, so please make sure you have your say and come along. If you aren't able to make it, the plans will be on our website from Monday 14 November 2011.

You are invited to come along to one of the following three drop-in events:

Oakridge Hall for All

Monday 14 November
Wednesday 16 November
Saturday 19 November

5pm – 8pm
10am – 2pm
10am – 2pm



Our neighbourhood and development team are happy to answer your questions or speak to you about any concerns you may have, so please do get in touch.

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