

## **SUMMARY REPORT OF FEEDBACK FROM URC CONSULTATION IN SEEDLEY & LANGWORTHY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Seedley & Langworthy Trust (SALT) agreed to conduct consultation on behalf of the URC to capture feedback from local residents and workers in the Seedley and Langworthy SRB 5 regeneration area regarding the draft vision for Central Salford.

The Langworthy Community Festival – which took place across Chimney Pot Park and the Langworthy Cornerstone provided the initial opportunity for staff from the Trust to discuss the vision with people attending the event.

### **Discussing the vision - URC Consultation – Langworthy Festival – September 2005**



Feedback generated centred around gathering initial views/first impressions on the draft vision and framework for Central Salford.

In addition to the above event, staff also conducted face to face interviews and discussed the vision with people in the area through drop-in sessions at the Trusts' community resource centre, Langworthy Cornerstone and random street interviews.

The main outcomes of this activity are detailed below.

### **OUTCOMES**

There were a total of 150 people who participated in the consultation.

Their initial views on the draft vision and framework are summarised below:-

- 45% strongly support the general approach
- 45% agree with it to a certain extent
- 6% neither agree nor disagree
- 4% strongly disagree with approach

The majority of people who were consulted agreed in principle with the vision, as highlighted by the above responses, but this must be put into context with the responses to the rest of the questions asked. A number of concerns were also raised regarding the concept behind the vision and its deliverability as a “long-term” regeneration project. Some of these issues will be highlighted further-on in this summary.

### **POSITIVE FEEDBACK REGARDING THE IDEAS**

The general support for the vision seemed in some part – related to a feeling that it could improve certain aspects of the area.

One of the more positively received ideas appeared to be the development of green spaces that might enhance the environment and make the city more attractive – not just cosmetically but from an investment and community perspective.

Other positive themes relating to the vision included:-

- Keeping/restoring landmark buildings
- Connecting communities/environments together

### **DISLIKES / CONCERNS ABOUT THE VISION**

These generally were voiced more as concerns and included:-

“How will this combat Salford’s existing problems, (e.g. anti-social behaviour, etc....)”

“How will it react to an economic downturn/change of government?”

“That people on lower incomes may be missed / “priced-out” of the area”

Another concern raised anecdotally was the impact / implications such a project would have on existing regeneration programmes in existing areas. Some people struggled to see how this could link in and compliment their area’s regeneration plans.

### **WHAT’S GOOD ABOUT MY AREA**

The people, sense of community spirit and completed regeneration work ranked highly amongst people interviewed when asked what they liked about the area they lived or worked in. Also identified were factors such as the close proximity to Manchester along with good access to the motorway networks.

### **WHAT’S NOT SO GOOD**

There were a range of issues people weren’t happy with in their area, most notably:-

- Crime & disorder
- Litter /Rubbish

- Derelict buildings (empty properties)

### **GREEN SPACES & RIVERS**

It was generally thought that Salford's many green spaces and rivers should be cleaner and safer and more family and user friendly, with opportunities for sport and leisure activities to take place on them.

### **BENEFITS FROM THE PROPOSALS**

Creating a greater sense of identity, investment and a cleaner, greener & safer environment were some of the possible benefits identified. The major strength/asset of Salford would appear to be its people (no surprises there then!!!), who I'd like to thank for taking part in the consultation.

### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

There are some positive indications that the people consulted would in "theory" support the Central Salford concept. However, the exercise proved extremely challenging as a sizeable amount of people expressed concerns about their willingness to "sign-up" to something that may not have direct positive impacts on them and their area. Many remain to be fully convinced.

Concerns were expressed about the "heart" being Chapel Street for example. If that area become more for pedestrians were would the traffic go? The need for future on-going dialogue with the community of Seedley and Langworthy is vital for this vision to gather momentum there.

Martin Halton – SALT/SRD