Consultation Drop in day - Re Station Yard

approx 100 attendees

Written responses received re design

Happy to see public toilets but car parking not sufficient

Would be nice if the buildings were in keeping with Southwold and didn't look like block houses.

Design drawings look a bit "anytown, anywhere".

Another café - surely NOT! Parking in locality? What about residents of Station Road?

There is nothing at all to recommend it.

Overall good idea - "building" to replace Clancys too modern!

The drawings are deceptive (deliberate) to give the impression of a functional place. But as an important first impression of the town of Southwold it doesn't even attempt to enhance the town unusually! Needs to go back to the design dept. This is an unacceptable "Gateway" to Southwold.

I have lodged my objections with Waveney. I am depresssed hyaving seen the plans today. I think it is ugly. This doesn't suggest "Gateway".

The site certainly needs to be tidied up as it is a disgrace to be seen at the "Gateway" to Southwold. Certainly the tenants need to be looked after with more assurances for the survival of their business!

Totally unacceptable and unnecessary. Ghastly design, - all we need is to leave Clancys alone, refurbish the garage/bike shop and give the residents the parking they have needed for the past 20 years.

This town needs its garages and its cycle shops. It does not need a coffee shop or all these offices. Some of the office spaces currently available are unoccupied. The design of the building where Clancys currently is is dire. It should at least reflect the architecture of the adjacent Hurren Terrace. There should be provisio for car parking for residents within the site. That is far more important than an "attractive" courtyard. People cannot be expected to walk in all weathers to the Millennium Foundation's car park.

Not impressed with the design - not much of a gateway to our lovely town. Where is the imaginative brickwork, roofline? It could be anywhere. Agree with SCC that the parking proposal is unsatisfactory.

The diagrams were confusing and opaque to any lay person. There was no clear visual representation of how the area might look. I remain worried about the access to the common, and the golf course. There was no clarity about the two footpaths leading off from that area. There was no information about access while the work is under way. There was a lot of discussion about what businesses might be located in the new building. Clearly this simply deflects attention from the real issue which is about the proposed built environment. Any businesses which finally take up the site will be those who can pay the price and wish to be located in that position. That may prove to be very different from the vision of the Council. Equally I would want to be assured that the current local businesses which are affected and valued by local people are given the support they need to continue. We are so short here in Southwold now of the very special home grown businesses which made this place so distinctive.

Design is wholly inappropriate and out of character. Where are the detailed costings and funding costs. Where are the research findings as to for the space. Where is the definite provision of parking. Can the Council really afford the costs without wholesale sale of their existing and important property holdings? P.S. the idea that businesses will move from the city is ludicrous. Why is the Council doing this in competition with the hospital and Kings Head business?

If this is the "Gateway to Southwold" which greets visitors - why is it <u>SO UGLY?</u> Why not make the buildings more in keeping with the rest of Southwold?

The architecture is awful and not in keeping with the town.

Architecture is too modern for the entrance to the town. You say you promote cycling, where is the option for cycle <u>maintenance</u> shop

Awful and not needed.

Do not like design. Need to go back to drawing board and redesign so properties there already are sympathetically refurbished to keep the history of Southwold.

A rather industrial and disappointing "New Town" design. Undoubtedly, the site needs attention but much further public consultation and detailed business plan is required.

Very dull design. How is it going to be paid for <u>without</u> increasing massively the rents of the present shops? Why do we need office space when we have new units at Hopsital, SAC and Kings Head? Where is the parking for extra cars given the lack of parking already?

"Anywhere town" needs a rethink. Please do not build any more tall brick walls like the ones being completed on the old garage site that give a blank look to the town approach. The drawings are deceptive as the appearance, on the boards, of the existing and staying shops and homes, being flat and grey - deny their character, therefore making the newly planned plain, factory-like buildings less disasterous. Lets keep Southwold looking like a seaside town, rather than a cheap suburb of London.

Have lodged objections already as to use. Appalled today at the look and design of the development. What an uninspired pedestrian "Gateway to Southwold".

Very ugly entrance to Southwold. We don't need any other café or office space (see Grindstones and the hospital development). The car park <u>must</u> have provision for residents parking - as indeed should the whole of Southwold.

Poor design - business opportunity for whom? Locals? Parking v poor everywhere in Swold. Swold losing character with ill thought out schemes.

Quite frankly it looks awful. We are not a riverside complex in London. This is Southwold.

Written responses re existing businesses

We do need a garage, bike shop so find room for their return. Do we really need another café?

Protection required for garage and bike facility.

Any ideas to promote new business and diversify the economy should be supported. The most important thing, however, must be to support existing businesses. The garages and cycle hire are every day businesses providing services both to local people and visitors. We need to ensure that the community retains businesses such as these. The plan appears to be based on a vision for a new type of economy which is not necessarily going to take-off in Southwold. Imagining us as the "silicon coast" is bold but not necessarily realistic.

(1) Relieved to hear that there are plans for the garage to be retained, albeit in a different location. I think for many residents this is one of the most valuable uses of the present site - I hope the Council will not proceed until this can be guaranteed elsewhere - expressions of goodwill alone are not enough. (2) I realise that flexibility is part of the concept, but I wonder whether there is really adequate demand for office and more retail space - has any market research been done, bearing in mind the hospital plans as well. If no need, can there be more affordable housing instead. (3) I should be sorry if a new cafe were to take away from what Clancys already offer. The have effectively replaced Purdys as a real service to the local community.

Provide the <u>needs</u> of locals eg garage/bike shop etc <u>not</u> focus on 2nd home owners (who will be based opposite). <u>No</u> more coffee shops required.

I will be devastated if we lose the garage - I have been told there is a possibility of it moving to another site which I hope will happen. Southwold needs useful businesses like this. Is there the demand for more office space given that there witll now be office space in the hospital site? There seems to be a conflict with this development and the hospital site. Is there really the demand?