

Written Quotes (*shown in italics and bullet points*) were submitted by the local residents who attended the two **Abbots Langley Village Centre Masterplan Workshops** held on Monday 20th and Wednesday 22nd in the Manor House, Abbots Langley.

Attendance at Workshops

There were about 42 people attending on Monday evening (see photo below) and about 50 people attending on Wednesday evening. The workshops lasted from 19:30hrs to 21:15hrs.



The Workshops were held on the 20th and 22nd June in Manor House. This is before the Village Centre Masterplan for Abbots Langley has been written. Prior to this, the Planning and Design Consultants from AECOM had conducted two site visits to the village and taken part in two virtual Discussion Groups with residents. One of the site visits focused on talking with local shopkeepers in Abbots Langley.

Comments from the public

The written comments given below are from the public in answer to the question: 'What are the issues and improvements that you require to be addressed in the Village Centre

Masterplan?’ These comments were requested after the public had spent time viewing the ten exhibits about the Village Centre Masterplan that were on display at the Manor House and listening to a ten-minute presentation by AECOM. The Consultants explained the background to the Village Centre Masterplan and its four main objectives associated with:

1. Historic Assets
2. Land Uses.
3. Public Spaces.
4. Sustainable transport.

All the written responses received from the public at the Workshops have been grouped under the above four headings and written in Italics. These are the exact words used by the public in their responses.

After receiving these written comments, a general discussion was held in each Workshop for an hour, regarding possible improvements to be included in the Masterplan. A digital recording was made of the discussion in each of the Workshops. These discussions were led by Peter Warman. The audience raised questions and put forward their suggestions. Mark Hughes (Mon & Wed) and Hoorieh Moreshedi (Mon only), from AECOM, joined in the discussion, responding to points raised by the audience.

Public Responses via ‘Abbots Matters’ Facebook Pages

In addition to the public comments below, a further dialogue was held with the local residents via the Abbots Langley Facebook pages (‘Abbots Matters’ Group -15,000 members.) This was conducted by Peter Warman in the week before the Workshops and Exhibition. The dialogues on Facebook included about 140 comments that have been saved as screen grabs. These cover similar topics to those written below.

Comments in Context

In the text below, a brief description is given of the local context/circumstances in which the residents’ comments have been made.

1. Historic Assets

Context: Abbots Langley as a village is known to have had human settlements in the area in pre-Roman times. A Timeline of significant events in its 2000+ years of history has been prepared by the Local History Society. Each year the History Society organizes History Walks around the village in the Summer. The suggestion to develop a History Trail for visitors within the village and surroundings with illustrated information boards along the trail would be possible. There has been talk over the years about having a permanent display of historic assets and manuscripts in the village, if a suitable venue could be found.

1.1 Historic buildings

Monday Workshop comments

- *Preservation of historic buildings*
- *Highlight the historic buildings so we can appreciate them more*
- *Objective: Are we missing local assets?*
- *Historic Buildings are museum pieces unless we underpin our assets to deliver a vibrant village*
- *Define the local character - what is it?*
 - *Vibrant -*
 - *lots of societies*
 - *groups*
 - *events*
- *Weekday morning and Saturday shopping*
- *Commuter people moving into the village and may not know or use facilities*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *As they are now*
- *Village heritage must be preserved*
- *Utilise historic assets in the high street. Link and allow views.*
- *Points to stop and look*
- *Most assets are on the vehicle routes away from centre*
- *Retain Abbots House as a single-family residency (Note: it is a private Family house.)*
- *Information boards for our historic places for history trail*
- *History Trail around the village - Enhance by using posters with old photographs, showing how they (Assets) used to look.*
- *Community centre is not a historic asset, but it is an asset which has been produced by the community as a result of considerable support and fund raising by local residents. The building will not last long enough to become historic and its lease (council owned land) will soon expire. Good replacement needs to be thought about.*
- *Shop fronts are not all tasteful/in keeping*
- *We don't need a visitor's centre*
- *How will all the proposed changes be funded?*
- *Historic Assets - I like these, they seem genuine. I don't like false heritage. Keeping the pond as a structure is an example of this for me.*

1.2 Historic Areas

Monday Workshop comments

- *Restore 'Pound' and 'Kitters Green'*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Allotments should be categorised as historic assets as well as green spaces*

More allotment sites found to help with present inflation and help/interest of villagers

2. Land Uses

2.1 Improve the diversity of shops

Context: With the closure of two local banks (Lloyds and Barclays) within the last two years and the impact of Covid 19, existing shopkeepers have remarked on the drop in footfall in the shopping area. Other shops to close in the last two years have included a long-term popular Travel Agency and a Dry Cleaners. All vacant shop units have been occupied with an increase in Mens Barbers shops (from 2 to 4) and two Nail/Beauty Bars (from 2 to 4) with already three ladies hair salons and a beauty treatment shop. A new carpet/flooring shop has opened recently replacing an off license. Compared with many equivalent village shopping parades, Abbots Langley still provides a reasonable variety of other shops with three dispensing Chemists, two Electrical shops, a hardware/gardening shop, butcher, bakery, two local supermarkets, news agency, post office, opticians, eight take away/ restaurants (2 Chinese, 3 Indian, 1 Japanese, Fish & Chip bar and Pizza bar), a local day café, a coffee shop, a gift/flower shop, Funeral Directors, a walk-in betting shop, three Estate Agencies and a Solicitor's Office.

In addition, in the central village area, there are three churches, a village hall/performing arts centre and two pubs, with a new Cocktail Bar planned to open later this year.

Above many of the shopping units in the village are residential flats.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Shops - lack of fishmonger¹, greengrocer, butcher. Do we really need four Indian-type shops?*
- *More variety in shops*
- *Ensure existing shop mix preserved. Loss of more local shops e.g., Garston TV or Abbots House and Gardens would be detrimental to the village. Reduce the rates or rents on these types of shops.*
- *Maintain a balance in terms of shops etc., so that there is not a disproportionate number of one type of shops, e.g., nail bar*
- *Shops look tired,*
- *Maintain/improve diversity of shop types. No more betting shops, nail bars and food take-aways.*
- *Promote and retain local shops. Not encourage national or global shopping. Requirement is to be a small business holding.*
- *Support local shops now! - Struggling with extra costs - Customers saving pennies.*
- *(Shops) need to be here in 12 months time – (under threat with drop in footfall.)*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *More diversity regarding the shops*
- *Allow mix of residential and shops where businesses are not viable.*
- *No more nail bars, no more chemists, no more eclectic mix of shops*
- *Too many of the same businesses to be avoided.*

¹ Mobile Fishmonger visits from Grimsby every week with fresh fish. Has been coming to the area for 25 years.

- *Shops where you can refill your own containers with dried goods etc., e.g. like Refillsbell in Watford*
- *Space for community businesses e.g. community markets*

2.2 Loss of High Street banks

Context: Closure of two local banks (Lloyds and Barclays) within the last two years. Nearest Banks only available now in the centre of Watford. The local Post Office provides means for paying-in and taking out cash. There are no on-street Cash Units within the shopping parade. There is a cash unit in the Budgets supermarket and two others at nearby supermarkets. i.e. Small Tescos and Spar.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Bank Hubs - Where banks use the same unit on different days, e.g. Lloyds on Monday, Barclays Tuesday, etc*
- *Community bank needed*
- *A community bank - based on one shop/building*

Wednesday Workshop comments

2.3 What happens to the closed Margaret House Social Care Home?

Context: Margaret House was a Social Care Home owned by the Herts CC and contract out to a Social Care Agency. In November 2020 it was closed. Herts CC said it was surplus to their requirements. This public land is expected to be sold for the development of new apartments. No announcement or planning application has been made public yet.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Margaret house empty?*
- *What are plans for Margaret House - it could be a second health centre*
- *Conversion of Margaret House*
- *Affordable housing at Margaret House*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Margaret House needs to be rebuilt to be retained for local residence of the elderly*
- *Retain Margaret House as an Elderly People's Home*
- *What is happening to Margaret House?*
- *facilities for the care of the elderly*

2.4 Move Vine House Health Centre to Breakspere School Site.

Context: Breakspere School is to close and be relocated in Croxley Green in 2024 when a new SEND school with twice the capacity is due to be opened. The Parish Council has written to the site owners, Herts CC to suggest that a new Health Centre should be built on this site. The current Vine House Health Centre is too small. The doctors require a primary care facility that can accommodate twice the patient capacity. i.e. increased from 10,000 to 20,000 registered patients. All three local GP Surgeries are over-subscribed.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Vine House Surgery to Breakspeare*
- *Breakspeare school.*
- *Maintain and improve local GP services. Support the move to Breakspeare*
- *Medical better surgery*
- *Additional health centre planning*
- *Additional GP facility, rather than replacing vine house centre. Could be different areas improving access plus introduces a degree of competition*
- *Better medical centre*
- *new surgery*
- *Keep Breakspeare school. It's a local asset.*
- *Health Centre - link in with:*
- *Community NHS to look at therapeutic/supportive services*
- *Herts Partnership NHS Trust for mental health services - Psych and Therapies*
- *Bigger doctor's surgery*
- *Doctors Surgery*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Breakspeare School to be redeveloped as a new health clinic*
- *Build on symmetry of Manor house gardens and Breakspeare School site for health and well-being.*
- *Community based structure at Breakspeare School.*
- *Potentially utilise park as a waiting area with text alerts - busy mums.*
- *Doctors/Health Centre - Breakspeare school is ideal*
- *What will happen to the existing doctor's vine house after move to the school site*
- *Polyclinic*

2.5 Create a location for a regular outdoor market

Context: Community Markets: In the past voluntary groups in the village have organized community markets in the Henderson Hub on Saturday mornings four times a year and occasionally organized a French Market on a Sunday on the car park near the Police Station. If the village had a designed space for such events, it is thought that a regular monthly Farmer's market could be organized say once a month on Saturdays. This could complement the Farmer's Market held in Kings Langley each month. Others are held in Berkhamsted, etc.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Space for regular market*
- *Provide a space that can be used for outdoor markets*
- *Make better use of pavement space e.g. allow cafes to have tables outside*

2.6 Improve the state of pavements and paved areas for pedestrians

Context: Pavements in the village shopping area tend to be rather uneven surfaces, partly due to dual ownership. Partly owned by the highway Authority and partly owned by the adjoining shop. Both for image and safety this matter needs addressing.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Paving improvement*

Wednesday Workshop comments

2.7 Improve/redevelop part of the Village Centre

Context: It is over 22 years ago that some work was done to improve the public realm and the High Street in Abbots Langley. It is beginning to look neglected even though all the shop unit are taken.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Make the village centre somewhere that people want to visit for shops, entertainment etc.*
- *Outdoor community space for multiuser - market, performance, learning*
- *Centralised community building for council office, meeting rooms, teaching, police space*
- *Using land that is underused near current police station*
- *Sell off current council office*
- *incorporate the Kittens Green and parking area into new community building to extend the centre of the village*
- *Need to address the lack of focus to community facilities. Bring together market, civic office, performances and meeting halls into a major re-development incorporating Kitters Green, top end of Park and Council Depot.*
- *Creative Hub - activities for kids*
- *Any demolition planned?*
- *What is planned for fenced off green space to west of Furtherfield*
(Note: Furtherfield is located beyond the village centre area)

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Consider what and who are the people/residence and visitors being considered and served in the processing of ideas? All ages separate disabled, etc, children young.*
- *Infrastructure must be in place before developments.*
- *We need a (public) draw. A ferris wheel isn't such a bad idea.*
- *What about:*
 - *A Michelin starred restaurant*
 - *a museum*
 - *a community farm*
 - *something unusual*

2.8 School places provision

Context: This is not an issue for the Masterplan. However, it is a concern for local parents because although there are three large Secondary Schools in the Parish, the catchment areas for these schools and the other secondary school in King Langley can leave up to 20 to 30 children not allocated to any of these local schools.

Monday Workshop comments

- *We need a new secondary school urgently*

Wednesday Workshop comments

2.9 Future Housing Proposals

Context: The new Local Plan by Three Rivers District Council is under preparation. Announcements have been made that the Local Council wishes to find sites within the

Parish for 2,280. The revised proposals for site allocations and new housing numbers are due in November 2022. If these houses are to be built, most of them would be developed on existing Green Belt land as these are few brown field sites available in the Parish.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Housing plans show many additional units re plans*
- *Sustainable range of economic and community activities/facilities serving the community in the village and their needs*
- *Communal open spaces and multi-purpose /multi-use*
- *Enable innovation and innovative partnerships Public - Private - Community*
- *Inclusivity/disability/pedestrians/cyclists, etc*
- *Green and Clean - encourage and engage younger people*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *No more housing within already crowded areas. For example - demolishing large house to accommodate five or so four bed roomed houses.*
- *Affordable Houses*
- *There are many people who cannot afford to buy whatever the price, i.e. a patch of land with a house or an estate are all affordable to developers. This does not answer the problem for those with nowhere to live. We have a large property near to us with just one solitary 88-year-old waiting to die, so they can built even more six bedroom house for sale or rent next door.*
- *What is happening to beautiful arts deco house on Gallows Hill Lane?*
- *Control of developments in large properties, knocking down one house and building a street.*
- *Sub-dividing existing housing plots to increase housing density should be discouraged.*
- *Retaining Abbots House and grounds*
- *Retaining the vicarage and land*
- *Breakspeare School/swimming pool*
- *Redevelopment of the Breakspeare School site must be considered a priority*
- *Breakspeare School for a new health facility*
- *If local surgery moves to vacant school/we need more doctors and admin staff to accommodate it.*
- *Breakspeare school site - Could be focus for expanded rehab team to safe patients going into Watford, etc.*
- *Preventative work as well as rehab after surgery*
- *A new medical centre; where?*
- *Fantastic opportunity to create a healthy hub for all on the Breakspeare school site. Combine a GP surgery with a therapeutic intervention, holistic practices. OT, minor surgery, preventative checks, alongside tai chi and horticultural therapy.*

2.10 Preserve surrounding fields/greenbelt

Monday Workshop comments

- *Village centre is dependent on keeping green belt fields growing local foods*
- *Local farming to feed local people.*

- *There is no point planning anything unless the issue of biodiversity is at the forefront- keeping our green spaces, planting more trees and allowing wildlife in our area to survive in an uncompromising onslaught of development.*
- *Young folk are interested in biodiversity even if they haven't been interested in coming to the meetings. Perhaps the meeting format is too old fashioned for them and boring?*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Please don't take any fields away for housing. More use of brown field or inefficient housing to build on.*
- *No development of green belt land*
- *We have enough green spaces - play areas*
- *Too many public spaces for vandals - no more police??*
- *Food Security - Space to grow and sell food locally*
- *Opportunities to harvest and exchange locally grown food*
- *encourage productive front gardens*
- *More local food growing*
- *local production of other useful items, e.g. bamboo canes, hazel for basket weaving, flax*
- *Retain/expand allotment spaces.*
- *Important to keep allotments*
- *Green spaces*

2.11 Create an Office Hub

Monday Workshop comments

- *Provide spaces for small businesses, e.g. office space as this would create a group of people working in the village who could use the shops*

Wednesday Workshop comments

2.12 Abbots Langley Library

Context: Need to increase the foot-fall using the library. One option, under consideration by the Neighbourhood Plan is providing an on-site Office hub for hired use by office workers.

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Retention of the current Library plus internet hub*

2.13 Facilities for Young People

Context: There is a large Community Centre within the village centre, near the sports facilities in the Manor House Playing fields. There is also a nearby large Scouts Hall that is well used. So, it is unclear whether additional facilities for the local young people are required. Usually, the challenge is not suitable buildings but the availability of volunteers and staff to supervise these activities.

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Decent youth facilities, i.e. modern youth club/meeting room/cafe*
- *Need more facilities for youth of Abbots Langley, e.g. youth club*

- *Facilities for the young teenagers. nowhere for them to go in the village so they hang around street corners!*

2.14 Public Toilets

Context: There are public toilets available in the Village (Manor House, Henderson Hb, local pubs, etc.) The problem can be that these facilities are open for limited periods of the day/evening.

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *In the park we need a public toilet suitable for all including disabled. It should be available even when the club house is closed.*
- *Village needs public conveniences (Vandal proof)*

3. Public Spaces

3.1 Create attractions in the village centre

Monday Workshop comments

- *To bring people in, to give them an attractive cafe culture area with art and interesting seating, etc and landscaped.*
- *In the area behind the police station - community centre and part of the park. Often see people getting lunch at Simmons, then sitting in cars to eat, monopolising parking.*
- *Warner Brothers workers might be attracted to a peaceful place for lunch.*
- *e.g. Grand Junction in Colorado - Tourist attraction for Sculptures*
- *Shop windows have lost their appeal since plate glass replacement.*
- *Social Space outside parade should be a Harry Potter or changing sculptures or something that Warner Brothers provide, or available for market*
- *On different Saturdays/Sundays of the month you could have functions such as farmers markets and flea markets. They are extremely popular in France and increase footfall dramatically. The car park would be a god central site. Might be better on a weekday to benefit local shops.*
- *To encourage tables outside the shops - people will come to the area to eat (from outside the village). This improves general footfall*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Pedestrianisation of the parking area in front of Garston TV and Simmons*
- *Improve entrance to car park (High Street)*
- *Retain/Improve existing public spaces*
- *Don't pedestrianise because business will suffer/no footfall*
- *Do not pedestrianise High Street because alternatives, e.g. Trowley Rise would be more of an issue and what would be the purpose*
- *Short term parking facilitated in front of shops in centre between planters/trees etc.*
- *More pedestrian only streets*
- *Simple things like painting the village furniture, lamp posts, etc.*
- *Replacing missing paving stones*

- *Fine with current public spaces, both footpaths/parks/and memorials. These are meeting people's needs*
- *Enhance community spaces by adding:*
 - *library of things - tools, garden implements*
 - *communal food growing*
 - *edible corners (small areas of e.g. fruit, nuts)*
 - *space for sharing of local skills*
 - *maker space*
- *Open public space to allow reflection, sitting and people watching*
- *Cafe culture to boost retail*
- *Link church and gardens to centre*
- *Greener High Street - take out parking spaces by Simmons and create a green community space with seating*
- *Lots of seats! Green and pretty (maintained by the Aims Group)*
- *Reduce parking in High Street and outside small parade of shops - pedestrianise the area.*
- *Benches/Tables/Landscaping (for pop up events also)*
- *Could Abbots maybe have some market stalls on a Saturday or once a month along the High Street, like Berkhamstead do.*
- *And maybe once a month or every three months, have vegan/vegetarian stalls, like Hemel, St Albans*
- *Counter-weight Millennium Green with public space outside shops.*

3.2 More Green Spaces

Monday Workshop comments

- *Green spaces proposals*
- *Create green space outside parade of shops and move parking to current verge off main road, creating a social green space.*
- *Improve pavement for cafe outdoors.*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Grass verges to be retained*
- *Inner village green space i.e. on the high street.*
- *The Crescent is within the village centre. It should have tree planting to soften it and make more attractive. Also the corner of the crescent by the supermarket needs landscaping.*
- *The plan, whatever form it eventually takes, must preserve the biodiversity of our area, which is currently under severe threat of overdevelopment and lack of green corridors for our wild life and pollinators in particular.*

3.3 Community Facilities

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *more community use of the assets we have, e.g. library, schools*
- *Put cash machines in pubs that are open late*
- *community fridge*

3.4 Henderson Hub

Context: Due to the pressure to increase the income for the Henderson Hub and reduce its subsidy by the Parish Council, the management are trying to increase its availability for hire and income generation. This has resulted in some popular 'village hall type' activities having to find alternative venues which has divided opinion amongst some residents about the management's priorities. Its Charitable status means it must fulfil a dual role as a village hall and a performing arts venue.

Monday Workshop comments

- *The Hub should be needs to keep village hall status*

Wednesday Workshop comments

3.5 More Litter bins/ Dog poo bins

Monday Workshop comments

- *More litter bins*
- *More bins in Manor House Grounds*
- *Dog bins*

Wednesday Workshop comments

3.6 Manor House Grounds

Monday Workshop comments

- *Create a Leavesden Country Park in Manor House Grounds*
- *Picnic benches in Manor House Grounds*
- *Picnic benches inside the park*
- *Picnic benches*
- *There is a need for more secure storage facilities for the various sports equipment used by the local youth football teams and the cricket teams. This should be located at convenient locations across the playing fields so that the volunteer parents who run these sporting activities have easy access to their equipment close to where it is used.*

Wednesday Workshop comments

3.7 Street Furniture

Monday Workshop comments

- *Improve street architecture/furniture to enhance look, e.g. sculpture trails, type of street furniture to be 'arty'.*

Wednesday Workshop comments

3.8 More environmental Measures

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Green roof bus stop*
- *Solar panels on public buildings*
- *Solar panels on public owned buildings next to open space or not*

4. Sustainable Transport

4.1 Pedestrian Crossing in the High Street

Context: Reported near misses and some accidents when motorists failed to stop at pedestrian crossing in the High Street. These events are reported in the local press. Highway Authority Herts CC appears reluctant to convert to pelican crossing (with lights) as sightlines for the crossing in current position are not long enough.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Need better pedestrian crossing*
- *Pedestrian crossing should have traffic lights*
- *Lights on the crossing*
- *The crossing - needs to be more visible (maybe traffic lights - more than ????)*
- *4-way zebra crossing at junction (not necessarily controlled) and remove existing crossing as 4 way would be more visible, and many cars already slow down, and new highway codes give pedestrians more priority at junctions.*
- *Roundabout at post office junction.*
- *Improve the crossroads Abbots/High Street/ Langley to make it a pedestrian zone - or public seating – encourage parking in the main free car park*
- *Reduce High Street clutter and improve pedestrian priority*
- *Remove parking bays*
- *Safety - pedestrian crossing.*
- *Road safety*
- *20mph signage*
- *crossings*
- *Improving the crossing outside the (Manor House) play area*

Wednesday Workshop comments

4.2 Reduce speeding in 20mph zones on High Street

Context. The 20mph speed limits were introduced to certain roads within the village about three years ago. This includes certain stretches of the High Street. Despite the existing 20mph signage, some motorists do not comply and this can be dangerous in busy pedestrian streets such as the High Street. Measures to improve the compliance would be welcomed by local residents. This may include more prominent signage, more speed humps or even speed cameras.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Traffic calming (e.g. humps) should be provided*
- *Speeding issue*
- *Measures to enforce speed limit of 20mph.*
- *Zebra crossing between doctor's and Breakspeare school*
- *Drivers drive too fast in the high street.*
- *Speeding - extend the 20mph zone on Gallows Hill Lane down to Popes Road*
- *20 mph speed limit should have gone as far as Breakspeare School when implemented. The risk of accidents when getting the children from the Manor House car park morning and afternoon is high. The Medical Centre, if it goes ahead, will also need speed restrictions at the entrance.*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- stop the speeders on 20mph limit stretch of high street
- Control speeding vehicles: 20mph!
- Safety on our roads and pavements.

4.3 Peak Time Congestion

Context: Peak traffic congestion within the village centre is not an issue because most of the main through traffic goes on Bedmond Road/Tibbs Hill to the east of the centre or the through routes near Kings Langley Station to the west of the centre. An congestion in the centre only occurs when cars are waiting to entry the parking area in front of the shops.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Extreme difficulty in driving out of Abbots Langley at peak AM and PM times. When going to work and returning to Village.*
- *Encourage walking to school*

Wednesday Workshop comments

4.4 Parking Provision

Context: All the parking in the centre of Abbots Langley is free. There is of the order of 120 spaces in the main free car park behind Causeway House. Motorists often choose to use the on-street parking near the shops and the off-road 14 bays in the area adjacent to some of the shops (Garston TV, Leith Opticians , Simmons Bakery, etc.). These parking bays tend to be limited to 30 mins. Parking. However, whilst these spaces provide easy access to the shops for motorists, it does result in parked cars dominate the shopping area and preventing other uses of the spaces that may be attractive to pedestrians.

Given the high levels of parking in the area including the main car park, it would be useful to have a better understanding of who is using these free parking places, their length of stays and which local facilities they are using. It is important for the village that those parking their cars are actually using the local facilities in the village either as employees, local residents, shoppers or other centre based activities.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Adequate parking should be provided off residential streets*
- *Improve car park signage.*
- *Improve parking... top of Langley Road.*
- *CCTV cameras in village centre*
- *Improved parking in village perhaps outside chip shop (Dolphins) in Langley Road.*
- *Improve car park behind the shops*
- *Catholic Church in the Crescent is very busy - (Pin Wei parking is used on these days)*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Stop parking right outside the old cottages (opposite the church). Slow traffic.*

- *People who live in Victorian terrace houses, owning several vehicles have to park on the street causing congestion.*
- *Stop vehicles parking on pavements*
- *Decent parking - not high street parking*
- *Keep main car park and free*
- *Illegal parking in the village centre is an issue, blocking pavements and driveways*
- *Car Park - Main one in centre behind shops should remain free.*
- *Any charges will cause much on-street parking and/or cause residents to shop somewhere else.*
- *Keep main car park and free*
- *Important that car parking remains free and unrestricted*
- *More designated disabled parking*

4.5 Access to the main free car park in the centre

Monday Workshop comments

- *Move exit and entrance of Causeway car park to Abbots Road's current exit. This is to prevent traffic build up at current entrance (make it exit only for housing nearby.)*

Wednesday Workshop comments

4.6 Electric vehicle charging

Context: No public electric vehicle charging facilities have been installed in Abbots Langley yet. The District Council and Herts CC are planning the roll out and are in discussions with the Parish Council. No delivery programme for public electric charging points has been announced yet.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Public electric car charging points are required*
- *Electric charging points and many of them*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Provision of public EV charging points*
- *Charging points EV's*
- *put in more charging points for electric cars*
- *Electric car charges*
- *Local electric car hire scheme*
- *Local charging points*
- *EV?*

4.7 Use of Electric Scooters

Context: Private electric scooters are not legal yet on public roads. No electric scooter hire schemes operate in the Parish.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Electric Scooters are risk to pedestrians*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Extend the Watford E- bike hire and E-scooter hire scheme (Beryl) to Abbots Langley*

- *The use of e-bikes and e-scooters is a nightmare*

4.8 Improved Public Transport Services

Context: Bus services have been revised in April 2022 in Abbots Langley with a much-reduced frequency for the Route 318 and a longer revised route for the Arriva 10 service. Compared to the previous service it has a much longer journey time to the centre of Watford passing through more en route housing estates in Watford.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Public Transport must be improved*
- *Local bus network – in areas not served currently: access to village centre (e.g. from Trowley Rise, Gallows Hill Road, Toms Lane, Kings Langley Rail Station, etc)*
- *Better bus services*
- *No bus service from station to village centre or to Hemel Hempstead*
- *Bus connection to rail station*
- *Recent reduction in bus service to Watford*
- *Provide better public transport links, especially between village centre and station*
- *If we want people to use cars less we really need to have more direct and affordable buses. No Brainer.*
- *Bus services facilities*
- *Regular and reliable bus services is needed*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *No bus to Kings Langley! Need regular bus routes to Hemel*
- *Improve bus services to Watford/Hemel/St Albans*
- *No direct bus routes to Kings Langley/St Albans*
- *Abbots Langley to Watford by bus - 40 minutes. Why?*
- *318 was 30 minutes, not now*
- *No bus to Asda*
- *'Milk float' like mini-bus shuttle to Kings Langley station*
- *Better bus route round village and to Hemel and Watford*
- *Retain existing routes and introduce new routes to serve additional development*
- *Bus companies make their own decisions!?*
- *How can influence public transport?*
- *Hoppa buses - around village including Kings Langley Railway Station*
- *Bus display of:*
 - *Route maps*
 - *Times/Connections*
 - *Tickets/Prices*
 - *clarify bus routes and stops*
- *The new W10 bus service takes too long - 40 minutes to Watford. People now just drive!*
- *A system of neighbourhood buses (to supplement traditional bus services) which would provide frequent transport to the centre from outlying areas (and back!). Would be appreciated by people not necessarily disabled or old, still active. But sometimes deterred by weather, children, gradually developing old age etc.*
- *small electrical bus shuttles would be helpful*
- *Public transport is poor in our area. Access to bus services to hospitals, other towns/even getting to Kings Langley is impossible except by car or walking.*

- buses?
- Better sustainable transport links from centre to station
- small mini buses which would act as a shuttle would be more sustainable
- electric vehicle link
- better community bus service

4.9 Access for the Disabled

Monday Workshop comments

- Access for all needs to mean that for people with all disabilities.
- Accessibility - disabled people can't access all the buildings and shops - a ramp may be provided but can't get to the door etc to ask for one !!
- Wheelchair accessibility to shops.
- Public Transport street furniture - disable conditions.

Wednesday Workshop comments

- Access for the elderly and disabled in the village is not good. Simple improvements I suggested about 20 years ago for wheelchair access to the park - so children from Breakspeare school can be taken around the park - were dismissed.
- Improve access route along manor house gardens.

4.10 Improve the Cycle Routes

Context: There are dedicated cycle routes in the village centre but the network is not continuous and requires further investment if it is to be given priority and fully segregated cycle routes provided.

Monday Workshop comments

- Make current on/off cycle route past Manor House grounds and playground continuous - currently the route force cycles on to blind corner
- Existing signage for cycle routes through e.g. Tanners Woods unclear
- Improve safe cycle routes around surrounding area through village and beyond
- Cycle lanes

Wednesday Workshop comments

- Encouragement for cycle routes
- Build cycle routes that cyclists will use
- Extend The Watford E- bike hire and E-scooter hire scheme to Abbots Langley
- Bike rental scheme with docking stations scattered around area
- Bike rack in safe places and cycle routes
- cycle ways needed - we have footpaths
- cycle to Watford / Hemel Hempstead.
- Routes from outer area to village centre/pedestrians and bikes
- Encourage green
- cycle routes
- improve cycle lane from bottom of hill to station

4.11 Improve the quality of the Pedestrian Network

Context: There is a widespread, long established footpath network in the village that focuses its routes on accessing the village centre. The network needs to be audited to

ensure the surfaces are well maintained, lighting is adequate and bordering hedges etc. are well maintained.

Monday Workshop comments

- *Better paths to the High Street*

Wednesday Workshop comments

- *Pavement on Bedmond Road is extremely narrow in places made narrower by overgrown hedges. Same on Gallows Hill Lane - overgrown trees, hedges, outside children's play area.*
- *Re-line the blocked footpath between Egg Farm Lane and Toms Lane*

PRW 30.06.2022 End.