

LOOSE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

RESULTS OF THE VILLAGE VISIONING EVENT 10th SEPTEMBER 2014



RESULTS FROM THE VILLAGE VISIONING EVENT SEPTEMBER 2014





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Feria Urbanism is a planning + design studio that specialises in urban design, urban planning, urban strategies, public participation and community engagement. Established in 2007, we have been involved in a diverse range of projects across the UK and have developed key skills in organising community engagement events that inform urban and rural strategies.

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Copies of the workshop materials

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STARTING THE PLANNING PROCESS

THIS SHORT REPORT SETS OUT THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE VISIONING EVENT HELD IN LOOSE ON 10.09.14.

The workshop began with a short slideshow from the Feria Urbanism team setting out the planning timetable and process through to October 2014 and then introducing the evening's tasks. The aim of these tasks was to inform the main themes and areas of policy focus for the project moving forward, especially at the three-day event in October.

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Task 01 To help understand more about the challenges and opportunities for different demographic groups. Task 02 To help define what makes Loose unique. Knowing more about the strengths of the village can help inform plan policies that will enhance and protect these positive qualities. Task 03 To help define the main challenges facing the village. The plan process will then prioritise identifying the ways and means of addressing these challenges. Task 04 To learn from other places. Where are the best bits that can act as inspiration? And where are the mistakes we don't wish to repeat? Task 05 If the village is to grow, which direction will be best and why? This task should think about all future opportunities. Task 06 How do people move around and which are the preferred routes? What are the challenges associated with movement? Not just cars, but all modes of travel. Task 07 What does the future hold? What is good now but could be improved further? Task 08 Which parts of the parish feel safe or unsafe and at which time of day or night?

The way the evening unfolded was as follows: each task was be laid out on a table, with the necessary equipment (plans, pens, stickers etc.) The participants worked in groups and complete each task in order. They had 15 minutes max. to complete the tasks before moving onto the next one in order. The Feria Urbanism team were clock watching the clock and let them know when it was time to move on. In this way, each task was completed multiple times over 2 hours. This started the process of building a consensus. For example, the same key words are appearing in several tasks showing there is clearly a consistency of opinion developing. The neighbourhood plan can then prioritise these issues.

/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism

/ Visioning Event / October 2014



The results from this event have given the parish council team and its professional planning and design consultants a good insight to the key concerns held by residents, businesses and organisations active in Loose. This will provide a valuable platform for further work on the neighbourhood plan.

While many of these concerns were widely known beforehand, having them expressed and recorded in a public forum such as this is a vital part of the consultation and engagement process necessary for the production of the robust planning document.

ALL PLACES ARE EITHER GROWING OR DECLINING. NOTHING STAYS THE SAME.

The parish council were thrilled with the turnout for the visioning event held on Wednesday 10th September. This is the summary report from the event, capturing through words, photographs and drawings the outcomes.

With over 100 participants, the evening generated a huge amount of material and many great ideas from the local community. This means the Loose neighbourhood plan has got off to a terrific start.

The information generated during the night is being used to help inform how the next stages of the process will be run and set out some of the priorities for the neighbourhood plan.

The parish council are aware that the huge numbers that turned up overwhelmed the small venue — many had to stand outside at the start of the night — and as a result, many people felt unable to contribute fully to the discussion. For this, the parish council apologies and sincerely hopes that this has not put people off from taking part in future stages of the plan.

The next event in the neighbourhood plan process is the three-day design forum to be held on Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd of October 2014. In contrast to the intensive and rapid-fire format of the visioning event, these three days will be much more considered and allow for more time for debate and discussion.







Standing room only, with many outside the pavilion, at the start of the visioning event.

























Some of the many different faces that took part in the village visioning event



An exchange of ideas between the young and the even younger

IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE VARIETY OF FACES AND CHARACTERS THAT TOOK PART IN THE EVENT THAT IN LOOSE IT IS

"the people that make the place"

AND THIS PERSONALITY SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE FINAL VERSION OF THE LOOSE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism



Task 01 Workshop participants debate the challenges faced by different demographic groups

TASK 01 — PEOPLE + PLACES

TEENAGERS

OPPORTUNITIES King George V field is the most favoured place to visit in the neighbourhood (mentioned 6 times) // Sufficient amount of public transport to adjacent neighbourhoods (mentioned 5 times) // The Scouts provides opportunities to go outdoors, meet friends and socialise (mentioned 3 times) // Beautiful outdoor green spaces (mentioned 3 times) // YMCA provides indoor meeting space that occasionally holds events (mentioned 3 times) // Good schools// Opportunities to go fishing or for nice walks.

CHALLENGES There are no cycle lanes making it hard to get to friends' houses, park or YMCA (mentioned 4 times) // Area can get dull with no new activities taking place (mentioned 3 times) // Public transport is expensive (mentioned 2 times) // Some of the roads are unsuitable and unsafe to walk on // A limited amount of youth organisations, events or facilities // Limited work experience opportunities // King George V playing field can feel unsafe sometimes.

CONCLUSIONS The teenagers are having a very difficult time as they cannot walk, cycle or get public transport, then rely on parents to drive them causing more congestion or traffic. The area offers a range of outdoor spaces but these can get 'boring' after a while. The YMCA offers an indoor meeting area and hold a few youth organisations every so often but this is not enough. Are the play areas in the neighbourhood targeted at younger children?

BUSINESS + EMPLOYERS

OPPORTUNITIES A good area for broadband // Close to Maidstone and London for employment opportunity // An area that is ideal for working at home or running small, bespoke businesses // There is a good public transport link into London and surrounding areas // There is a lot of old, run-down buildings that can be converted into offices helping to control business expansion // Sustainable development employment.

CHALLENGES A poor motorway link reduces trade in and out of the neighbourhood (mentioned 3 times) // New businesses will only encourage more traffic // With the exception of old buildings to renovate, there is a limited amount of premises to start up a business // There is too many traffic lights giving a greater journey time to and fro from work // Many of the local shop don't encourage enough local produce // High Rates // Limited parking – always a debate as to what is residential and what is commercial parking.

CONCLUSIONS There often appears an inconsistency about whether or not the A229 is a good or poor road link. A few people mentioned the need for small, bespoke local business units in the farming areas as there are only a few commercial properties for businesses.

PENSIONERS + EMPTY-NESTERS

OPPORTUNITIES A picturesque place to live (mentioned twice) // A lot of opportunities to volunteer // There is a good OAP home // Good public transport to get around // With the exception of the A229, it is a quiet place to live // A lot of things to do — take walks, play bowls, visit the church.

CHALLENGES The parish needs to hold more events, activities and entertainment to socialise // Shortage of buses that goes through the centre of the village (mentioned 3 times) // Lanes are uneven + narrow // Too many cars parking on pavements // Limited amount of doctors // Poor disability access // Hard to walk up Loose Hill // Some areas are unsafe for walking.

CONCLUSIONS Volunteering allows them to give a helping hand, socialise with the community, keeps them busy. As a result, they believe that there is a warm and friendly community spirit. Could the pavilion could be open during the day for the elderly? Some people said there is a shortage of buses that goes through the centre of the village and the transport is too expensive Yet others said there is a good transport link — need to investigate this further.



Task 01 Workshop participants discuss their ideas

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WITHOUT CHILDREN

OPPORTUNITIES Pub provides as a welcoming and controlled area to meet (mentioned twice) // Good place to live and work from home // Great access to green spaces for leisure walking // Good transport links.

CHALLENGES Hard to get to the rail station without a direct public access route (mentioned 4 times) // Not many large businesses for employment // Difficult to travel to work in rush hour // Poor routes to M20 and major roads // Lack of cycle lanes// No nice restaurants to meet clients, staff meals // The cost of housing is too high.

CONCLUSIONS The lack of cycle infrastructure encourages young professionals to drive to work. Young professionals tend to work in larger companies outside of the neighbourhood adding to the traffic and congestions at school arrival and leaving times. The cost of housing leaves many first time buyers struggling to enter the market, more likely to rent but hard to save for deposit for a house.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

OPPORTUNITIES Excellent schools (mentioned 3 times) // Good range of after school clubs and facilities // Good play areas // Opportunities to join a youth group // The stream and large amount of green spaces allows for places to play and take walks.

CHALLENGES The A229 makes walking to school difficult (mentioned 4 times) // The lack of parking spaces around the schools causes congestion along the A229 at school drop off and pick up times (mentioned twice) // Although there are many schools, the number of places fill up fast // Lack of affordable housing (mentioned twice) // Lack of Pre-schools and nurseries // Not many services for young families or small families // Lack of dedicated cycle facilities.

CONCLUSIONS Hard to get into local school as children from adjacent neighbourhoods apply meaning the number of places fills up fast. The walk to school is difficult because the pavements are too narrow for push-chairs / children skipping or running/pets.

VISITORS + TOURISTS

OPPORTUNITIES Beautiful green spaces, attractive and picturesque (mentioned 6 times) // Good pub (mentioned twice) // Historic village (Mentioned twice) // Nice walks // Tea room in the valley provides a central area to socialise within the community.

CHALLENGES Lack of signs or brochures displaying tourist or visitor information (mentioned 4 times) // No hotels (mentioned 4 times) // Poor parking (mentioned 3 times) // Lack of restaurants // Limited access if travelling by coach.

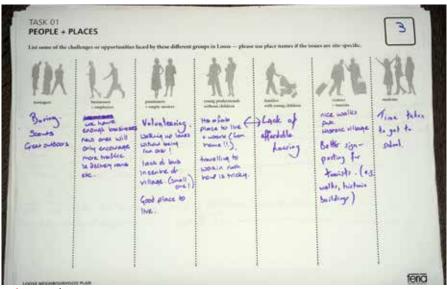
STUDENTS

OPPORTUNITIES Same as teenagers // Two good schools.

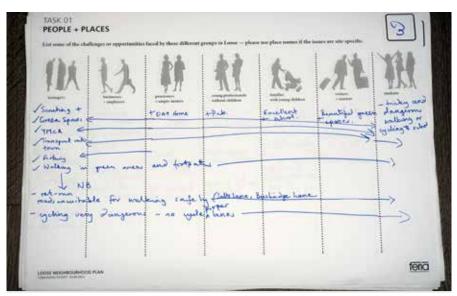
CHALLENGES Dangerous to walk or cycling to school // Hard to find local work or experience // No evening activities // No library to help with studies // Slow Internet // Lack of school choice // No local university.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

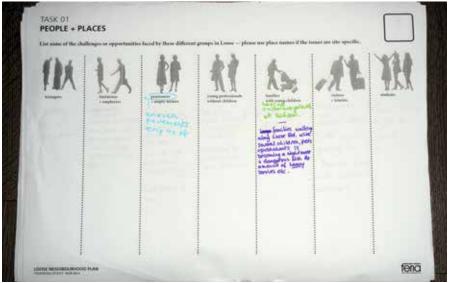
- Pensioners own the majority of houses as the high housing prices are becoming
 difficult for young people and families to buy. Although the neighbourhood
 is a lovely and beautiful place to live, there are few employment opportunities
 meaning professionals have to travel outside the neighbourhood to get to their
 place of work.
- With no dedicated cycle infrastructure adjacent to the busy roads, and access
 routes that feel unsafe, many people travel by car. The only way in and out of the
 neighbourhood is along the A229 adding more traffic along this road, especially
 at school drop off and pick up time. To add, this is further congested by the lack
 of parking.
- Loose parish has a warm, inviting and friendly community that holds various
 activity and events for pensioners, but young families believe that there could be
 more targeted towards them.
- This task highlighted that teenagers were the most "vulnerable" group.
 Although there is a YMCA and an active Scout group providing controlled meeting spaces, the neighbourhood can been seen as "boring" sometimes. With good transport links, but expensive buses, no dedicated cycle routes and areas that feel unsafe for walking, it is difficult for teenage groups to feel at ease in the parish area.



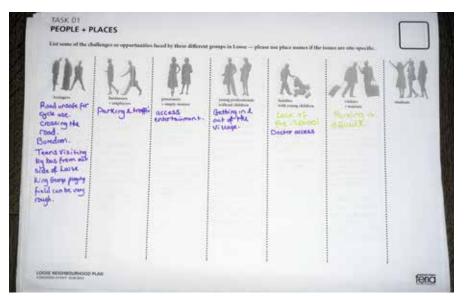
Task 01 Results



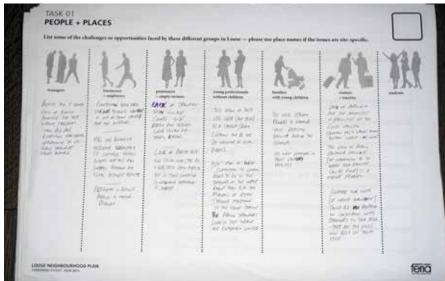
Task 01 Results



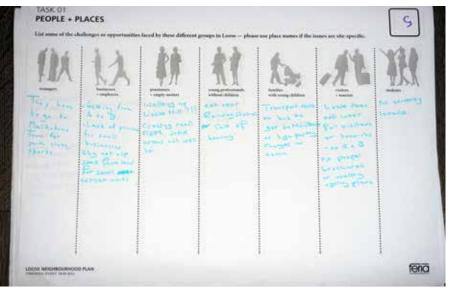
Task 01 Results



Task 01 Results



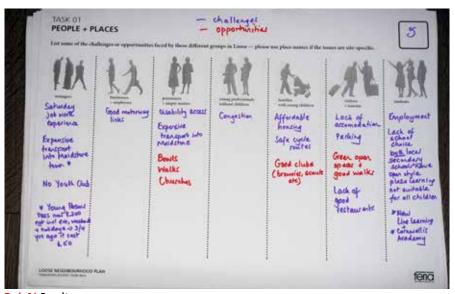
Task 01 Results



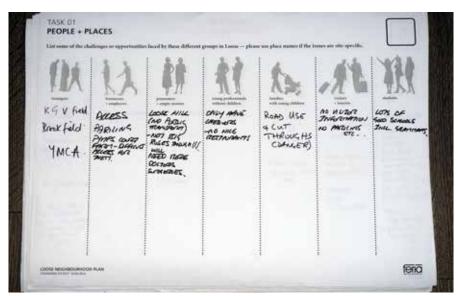
Task 01 Results

/ Loose Parish Council

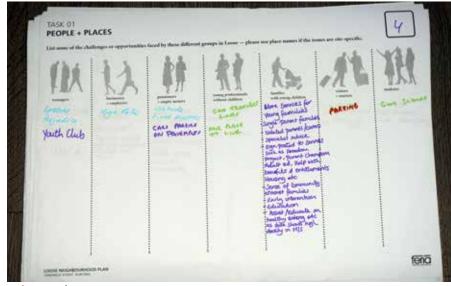
/ Feria Urbanism



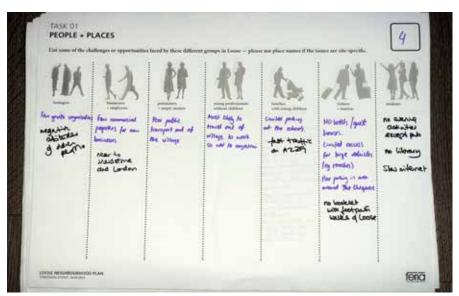
Task 01 Results



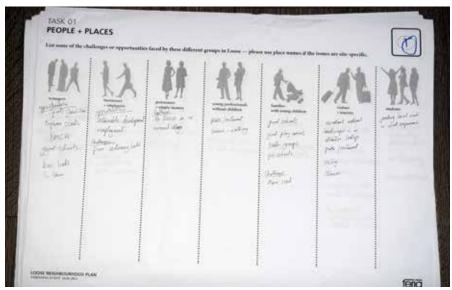
Task 01 Results



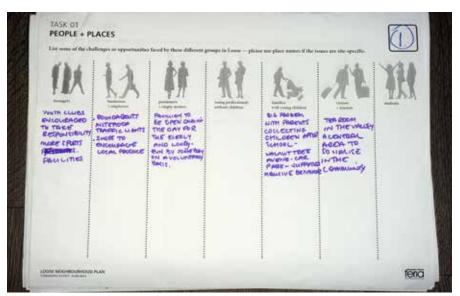
Task 01 Results



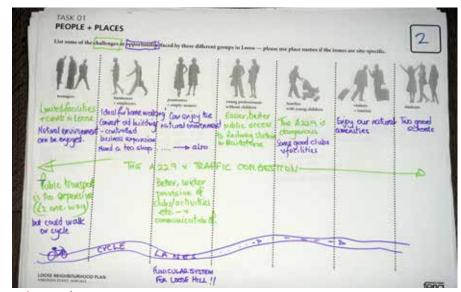
Task 01 Results



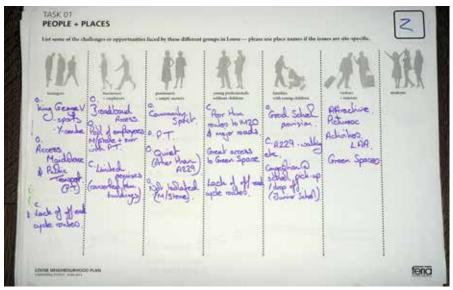
Task 01 Results



Task 01 Results



Task 01 Results



Task 01 Results



Task 02 Workshop participants discuss their choices regarding the qualities of Loose

TASK 02 — THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE

The words **SAFE**, **GREEN**, **UNIQUE**, **ATTRACTIVE** and **FRIENDLY** were used more than 10 times to describe Loose Parish. These were followed by **DISTINCTIVE**, **OPEN**, **CLEAN**, **INSPIRING**, **HARMONIOUS** and **IMAGINATIVE** to describe the type of place that Loose is.

When groups said the word **GREEN** they meant a place with many beautiful, open, picturesque outdoor spaces for many activities.

When groups said the word **CONTAINED** they meant a community of their own that cares for one another and the wider parish.

TOP TEN POSITIVE WORDS

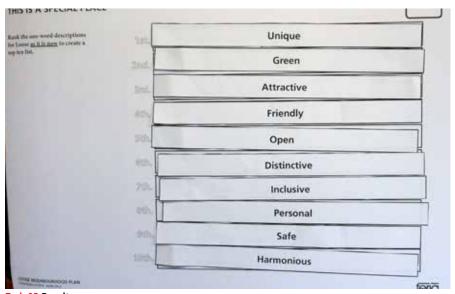
- 1. Safe
- 2. Green
- 3. Unique
- 4. Attractive
- 5. Friendly
- 6. Distinctive
- 7. Open
- 3. Clean
- 9. Inspiring
- 10. Harmonious

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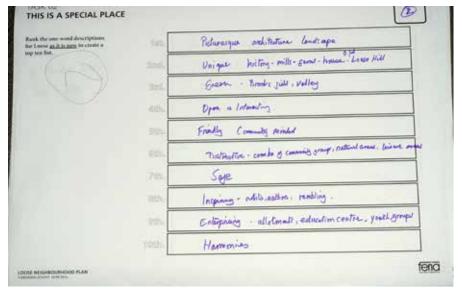
Chosen Word

No. of Appearances in the Results

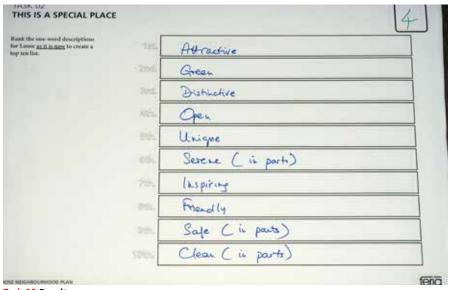
Safe 988865444332222 **I**maginative Considered Divided



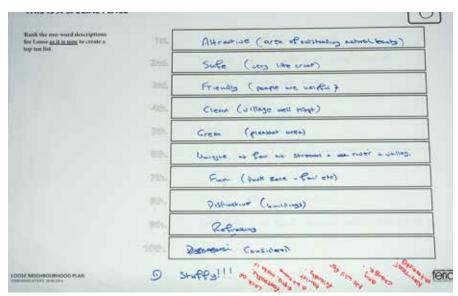
Task 02 Results



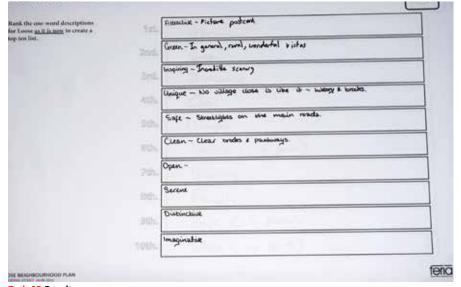
Task 02 Results



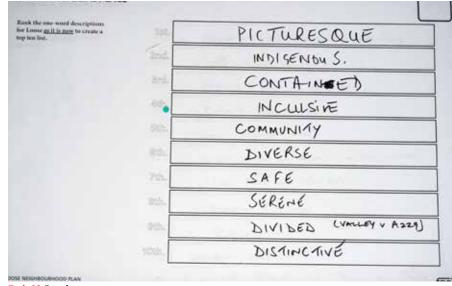
Task 02 Results



Task 02 Results

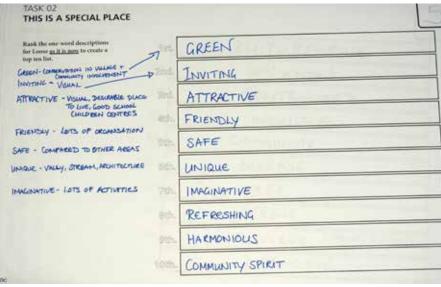


Task 02 Results



Task 02 Results

/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism



Task 02 Results

Attractive

Fun

Open

Clean

Unique

Dynamic

Inspiring

Friendly

Safe

Task 02 Results

RATERACTIVE (APART FAIL PAPERMAKON ARMS)

ATTRACTIVE (APART FAIL PAPERMAKON ARMS)

OPEN

UNIQUE

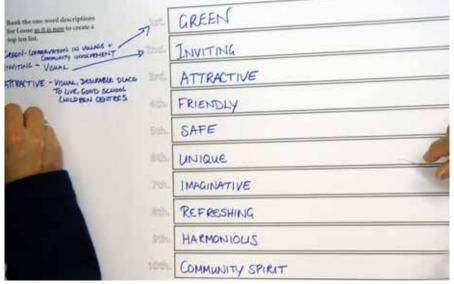
INSIPIRING

SAFE - Low crime RATE - DIT NAT THE MANAGAN

FRIENDLY

CONSIDERED

Task 02 Results

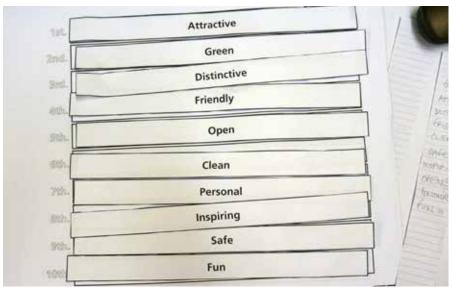


Task 02 Results

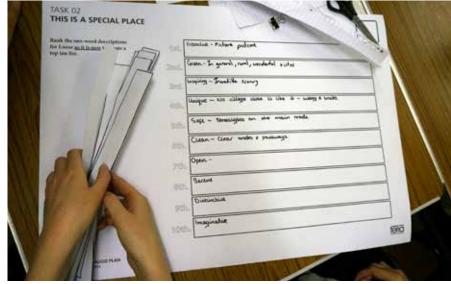
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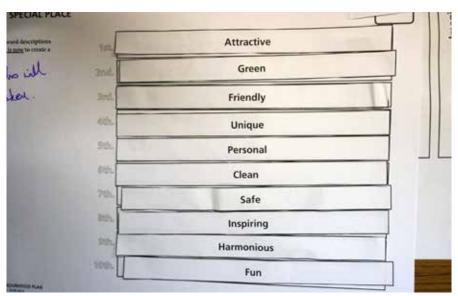
Task 02 Results



Task 02 Results



Task 02 Results



Task 02 Results



Task 03 Participants explore a preferred direction of growth

TASK 03 — DIRECTION OF GROWTH

Growth to the north east

There are worries of development in the north east area of the parish. Participants believe that this will cause more traffic problems, particularly on Borough Lane and Pickering Street, and it could cause an coalescence between Loose and Maidstone. Noise pollution, overlooking of existing properties and also a threat to the Conservative Area resulting in a loss of green space.

Some participants were open to compromise if new developments are sympathetic to Loose and its existing urban and rural forms. The north east area is highly visible as it is situated on top of the hill. Significant high density developments could spoil this area and obstruct views.

Other participants said there is potential for development in Boughton Monchelsea, in order to keep a "green wedge" between the two parishes, thus maintaining the existing fields currently used for orchards and crops but also creating a good area for informal recreation as it looks down into the valley.

KEY GROWTH ISSUES

[in no particular order]

ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT SHOULD RESPECT THE LOOSE PARISH.

NEW BUILDINGS SHOULD BE BEAUTIFUL AND CONTEXTUAL AND PARKING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR EVERY HOUSE OR UNIT.

NO ROOM FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS // RETAINING VILLAGE STATUS // NO SUBDIVIDING, THIS COULD EASILY ESCALATE // NO ROOM FOR BIG NEW ROAD NETWORKS OR NEW INFRASTRUCTURE.

Growth at centre of parish

There were a lot strong opinions against new development at the centre of the parish, along the stream as this is a Conservation Area that should be protected. There is also a view that there is insufficient road infrastructure, with many concerns about how an increase in traffic will be accommodated.

Growth at south west

The majority of participants believed there is a possibility of housing developments in this area, as there is a school nearby and good access. Moreover, this area is not the "heart of the village" therefore, leaving the central area untouched. However, this site should only be developed if traffic impacts are considered carefully.

The Park + Ride concept in the south west was mentioned. Most people are against this idea as they believe it will not be effective, particularly during school holidays.

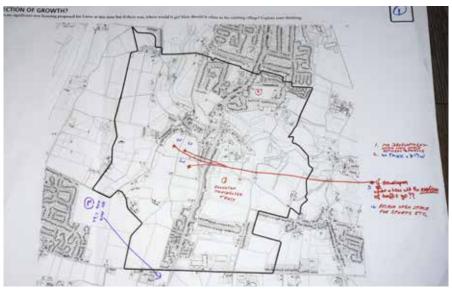


Task 03 Results

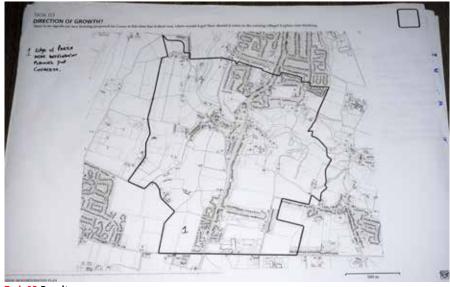


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Task 03 Results



Task 03 Results



Task 03 Results



Task 03 Results



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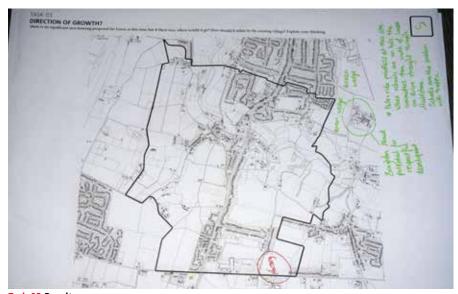
Task 03 Results

/ Loose Parish Council

DIRECTION OF GROWTH?

DIRECTION OF GROWTH?

/ Feria Urbanism

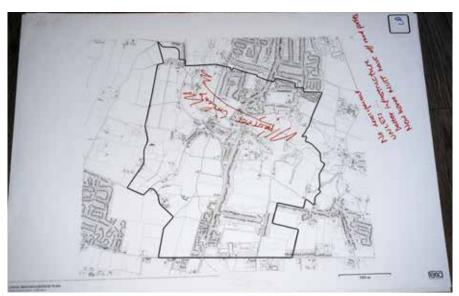


Task 03 Results





Task 03 Results



Task 03 Results

TASK 04 — PLACES YOU CHERISH, PLACES YOU DON'T

PLACES TO BE PROUD OF

This task revealed a correlation of the green dots. This shows there is a sense of pride and some commonplace positive opinions about specific places. The majority of open spaces and fields were selected at least once for a green dot. Small groups of green dots could be identified along the valley and in the Conservation Area. These were backed up with comments relating to the wildlife, natural beauty, heritage and attractive buildings. Individual dots outside of the boundary were placed on the wall at Hayler and churches, that were described as peaceful.

PLACES THAT COULD BE BETTER

As with the green dots, most of the red dots (used to identify negative places) also tended to cluster in specific places. These were common to all groups. One of these was the A229, particularly in the north of the parish near the primary school. Dots were accompanied by words such as "traffic", "congestion" and "unsafe". Another cluster was located in the south, used to express disapproval for a park and ride proposal. A couple of dots were placed on the village green stating that there is limited parking and that it fails to work as a social space. Also, there were some individual dots labelling poor pavements and vehicle weight restrictions. Dots placed outside the boundary were either at road junctions and areas that are not considered complementary to the heritage architecture found within the parish.

EXAMPLE LIKES

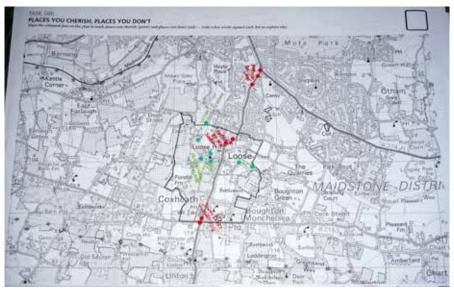


CONSERVATION AREA //
THE VALLEY // ORCHARDS //
HERITAGE BUILDINGS WITHIN
THE CONSERVATION AREA //
SWISS VALLEY // GOOD JUNIOR
SCHOOL // NATURAL BEAUTY //
GOOD FOOT PATHS.

EXAMPLE DISLIKES



TRAFFIC CONGESTION //
SPEED // PARKING AROUND
VILLAGE GREEN // RAT-RUNS //
ROAD JUNCTIONS // UNEVEN
PAVEMENTS // OVERGROWN
FLORA // ALLEYWAYS AND
NARROW PAVEMENTS.

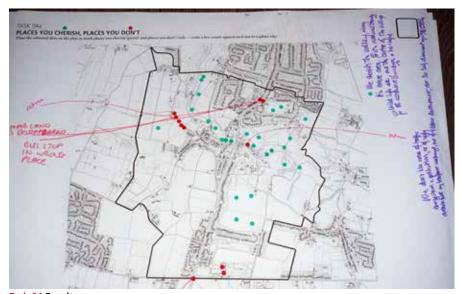


Task 04 Results

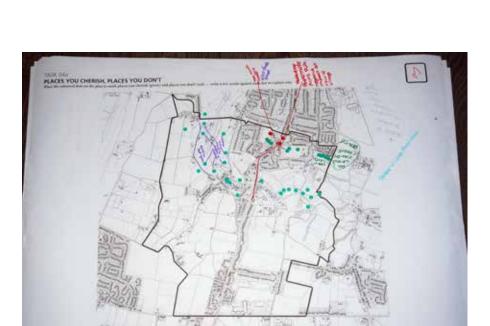


Task 04 Results

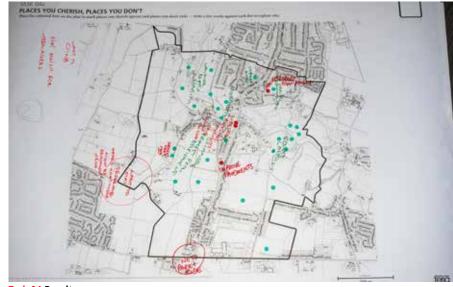
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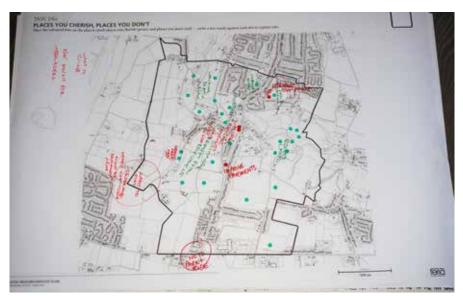
Task 04 Results



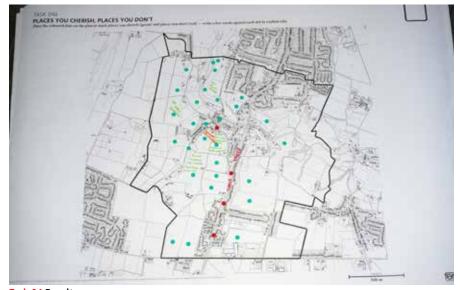
Task 04 Results



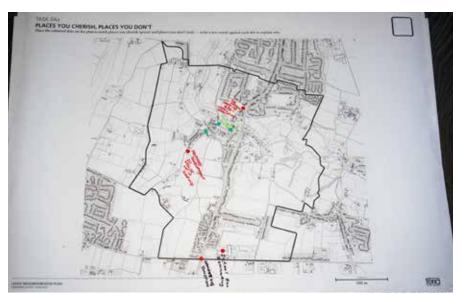
Task 04 Results



Task 04 Results

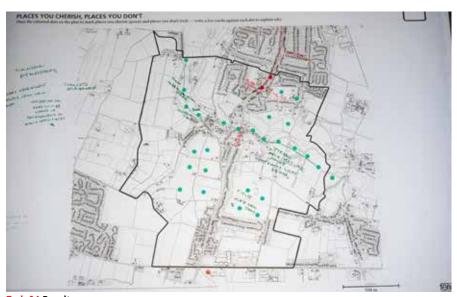


Task 04 Results



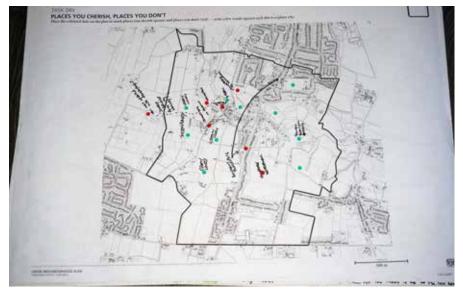
Task 04 Results

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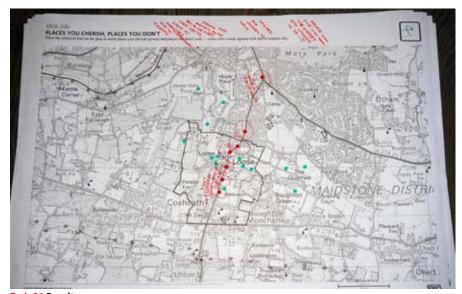


Task 04 Results

/ October 2014



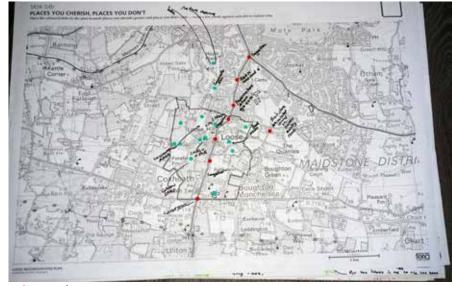
Task 04 Results



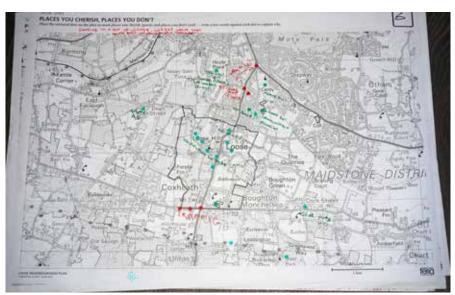
Task 04 Results



Task 04 Results

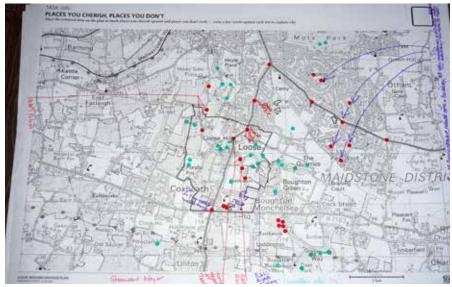


Task 04 Results

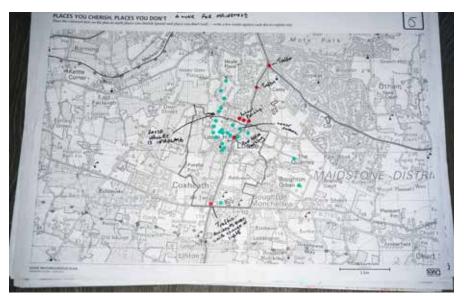


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Task 04 Results



Task 04 Results



Task 04 Results

Task 04 Results

PLACES YOU CHERISH, PLACES YOU DON'T



Task 04 Workshop participants identify the places they cherish the most

TASK 05 — MAIN CHALLENGES

The words **COUNTRYSIDE PROTECTION**, **TRAFFIC**, **HOUSING GROWTH** and **ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY** were the four most popular choices to describe the key challenges facing Loose.

MOST LIKELY CHALLENGES AHEAD?

TOP TEN ISSUES

Countryside Protection
Traffic
Housing Growth
Architectural Quality
Health Services
Schools + Education
Shops
Access to Recreational Land
Non School Youth Opportunities
Opportunities for Seniors + Retired

LEAST LIKELY CHALLENGES AHEAD?

MENTIONED ONLY ONCE, TWICE OR THREE TIMES

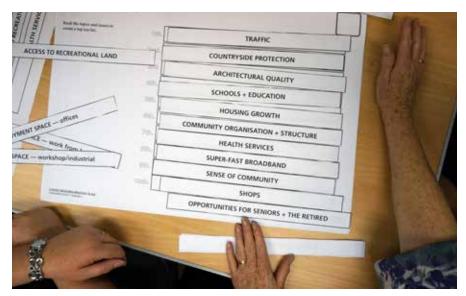
Town Squares + Civic Spaces
Dog Mess
Community Organisation + Structure
Employment Space (from home)
Enhanced bus services
Rail Services

Chosen Word No. of Appearances

Countryside Protection Housing Growth Schools + Education 99998654333221 Access to Recreational Youth Opportunity **Spaces** (workshop/industrial) Squares + Civic Spaces Employment Spaces (from home) Enhance Bus Services

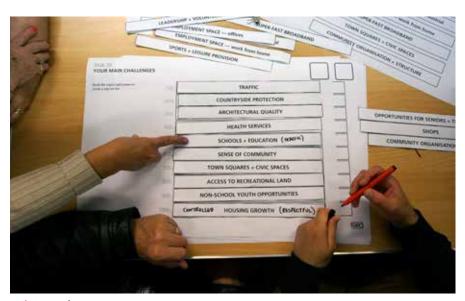
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Task 05 Results

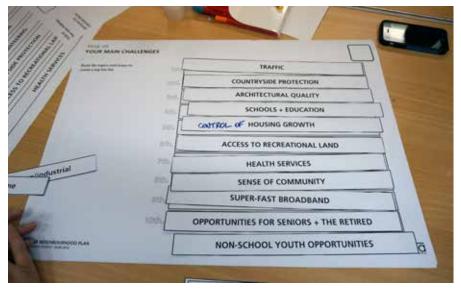


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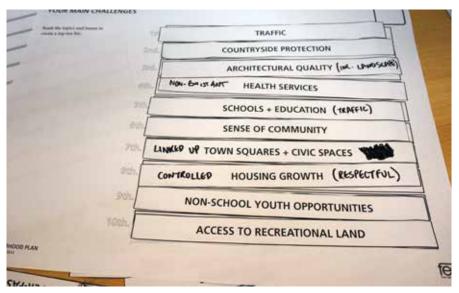
/ Feria Urbanism



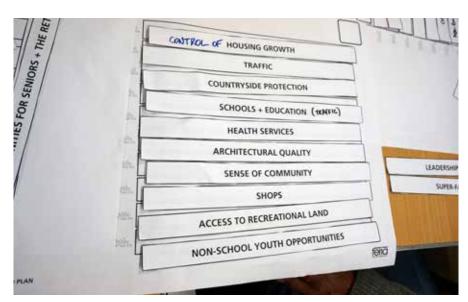
Task 05 Results



Task 05 Results



Task 05 Results



Task 05 Results

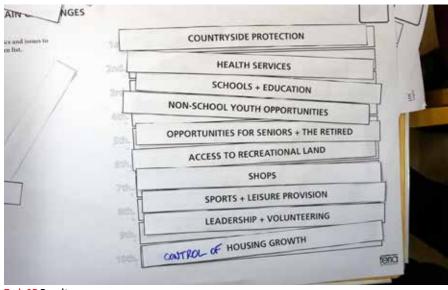


Task 05 Results

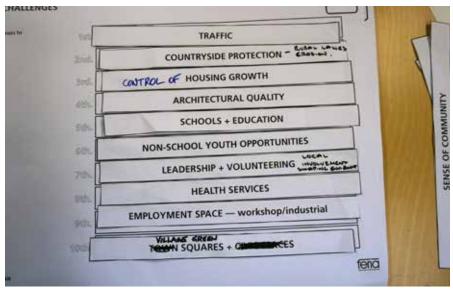


Task 05 Results

/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism



Task 05 Results



Task 05 Results

TRAFFIC

SCHOOLS + EDUCATION (1KNFIC)

HOUSING GROWTH

ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS + THE RETIRED

NON-SCHOOL YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

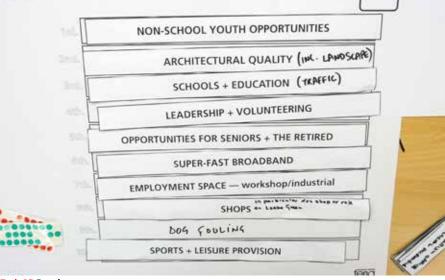
SENSE OF COMMUNITY

SUPER-FAST BROADBAND

SHOPS

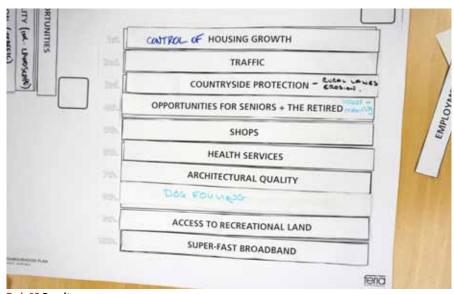
COUNTRYSIDE PROTECTION

Task 05 Results

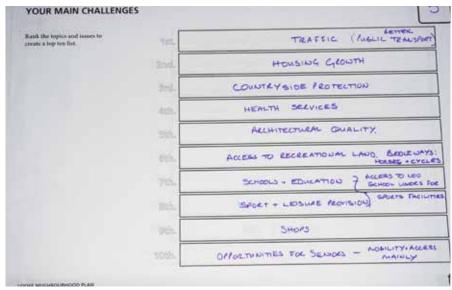


Task 05 Results

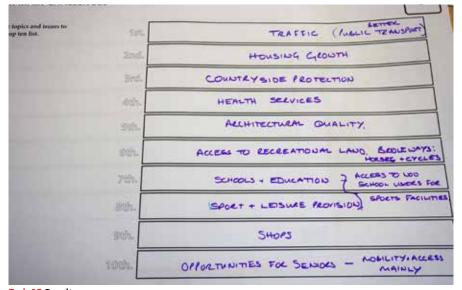
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Task 05 Results



Task 05 Results

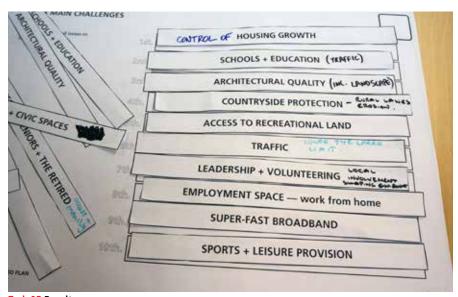


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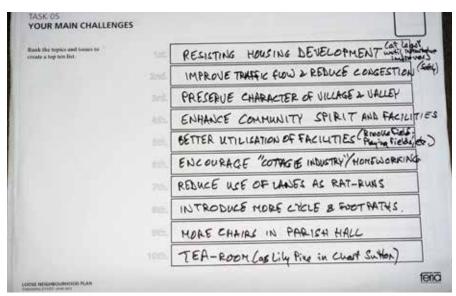
nk the topics and inners to	I	Chi all and a second
ate a top ten list.	Yet	Toppe cancel by now liabley a shall not expended
Lance	lind.	Specification Addubit declar tempor
	Section	Politing are your spaces
	49455	CONTROL OF HOUSING GROWTH
	570%.	ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY (INC. LANDSCARE)
	eth.	LEADERSHIP + VOLUNTEERING
	70%	SCHOOLS + EDUCATION (TENTEIC)
	895.	OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS + THE RETIRED
	Sth.	DOG FOULING
	10%.	ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL LAND
DD FLAN	1 1004	

Task 05 Results

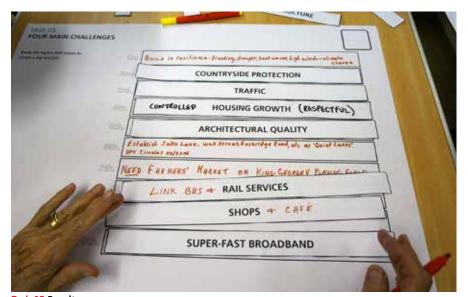
/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism



Task 05 Results



Task 05 Results

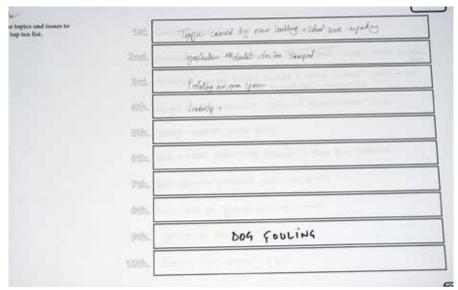


Task 05 Results

Busing in resilience flooding, drought heat was out high winds - elimate cha	d issues to
COUNTRYS! OF PROTECTION	
TANKS.	Sed.
Controlled Rousing Greens (RESPECTEUS)	. 40%
ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY	19004
Establish Inthe Lune, was serven buserings Road, at as "Quict Cane. Der Cresiner ontagen	
NEED FARHERS' MARKET ON KING GEORGEV PLAYING FO	
Link Bus - Rail Services	Fine
Stors + Caré	501.
Super-Fast Broodbead	1000

Task 05 Results

/ Feria Urbanism



Task 05 Results



Task 05 Participants discuss their choices



Task 05 Participants identify the main challenges

/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism



Task 06 Participants explore access + movement issues

TASK 06 — STREETS, SPACES + LANES

A229 LINTON ROAD

The A229 Linton road can be described as a "spine street" that slices through the centre of Loose Parish. Many concerns were related to peak-time traffic congestion and traffic speeds. Participants said that there is a large amount of traffic and congestion along the A229 during school drop-off and pick-up times. It is particularly busy towards the north of the parish where the school is.

This congestion is a deterrent to cycling and walking whereby people feel that the road is too dangerous, especially for young children. There is link — parents feel it is unsafe for young children to walk and so choose to drive to the school, thereby contributing towards the traffic congestion. All the school-runs shown in the task sheets use the A229 for at least part of the route.

Other comments state that traffic tends to speed along the A229 outside of peak hours suggesting that the road is dangerous at all times of the day. There are also traffic lights on the southern boundary of the parish, with some comments suggesting these only contribute towards traffic problems. A small minority of comments mentions a poor bus route with bus stops in a poor location.

KEY MOVEMENT ISSUES

[in no particular order]

LACK OF BRIDAL WAYS // SPEED OF VEHICLES ALONG A229 //
CONGESTION DURING PEAK TIMES // NARROW ROADS // NO CUTTHROUGH ROUTES FOR CYCLISTS // ALTERATIVE ROADS ARE TOO
WINDY, NARROW AND TOO MANY PEOPLE SPEED ALONG THEM // BUS
SERVICES CONSIDERED TO BE POOR // SAFETY ON COUNTRY LANES

BUSBRIDGE ROAD

The result of the task showed that a high proportion of people use Busbridge Road to avoid school traffic when travelling to work. This route passes the industrial state and eventually connecting to the A20. Each time Busbridge Road was mentioned, there was always a comment mentioning how drivers have to be wary as the road is narrow and a lot of people tend to travel at high speed. There were some mentions of installing an enforceable speed limit.

FOOTPATHS

Some lanes were highlighted as being suitable for cyclists and horse-riders but then labeled with negative comments saying traffic travels too fast and the lanes are too narrow, making it too dangerous to use. This includes Busbridge Road. Some negative views states there is only one bridleway for equestrian use.

Besides this, the footpaths are generally positive for pedestrians except where they cross over the A229. This is due to factors such as the adjacent vegetation needing to be cut back and maintained, pavements need improvements and that it can be hard to cross the road. The main footpaths that are frequently used are those around the Conservation Area and around Swiss Valley. There are also good quality recreational footpaths outside the parish in the Coxheath and Boughton areas.

OTHER ROUTES

There are a other routes that travel out of the parish that people use to avoid the A229. However, drivers should be wary because the roads are twisty and not suitable for regular use. This includes the direct route to the big supermarket (Morrisons) that a lot of people tend to use. Some lanes are prone to "rat-runs" such as Salts Lane to Cornwallis, Busbridge Road and some narrow lanes through the Conservation Area. These narrow lanes were also marked with statements to say that vans and lorries should not be permitted to use them. As a cyclist, there are few routes that cut-through to the different areas without using the A229 at some stage, where there are no cycling provisions.

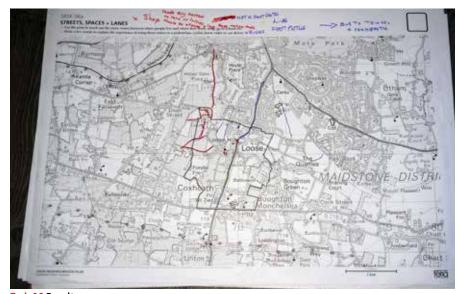
THE BIGGER PICTURE

The strategic location of Loose relative to the Maidstone urban area, has a direct impact on the volume of traffic passing through the village. The A229 is a primary route between Maidstone and the south coast. Conflicts occur where footpaths cross the A229 and along routes which are being used to avoid traffic congestion hotspots, especially at peak times.

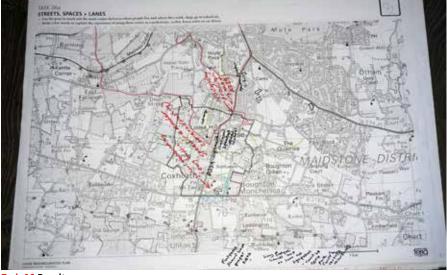
The lack of dedicated cycling provision and poor quality pavements only contributes towards the high volumes of traffic. Workshop participants expressed their concerns at how the neighbourhood plan would be able to address such access and movement issues originate outside the plan boundary.



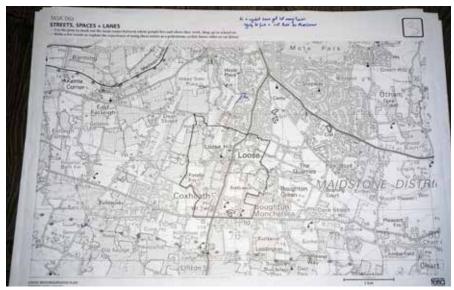
Workshop participants discuss their ideas in groups



Task 06 Results



Task 06 Results



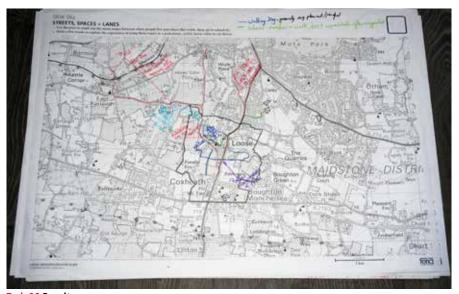
Task 06 Results



Task 06 Results

/ Loose Parish Council

/ Feria Urbanism

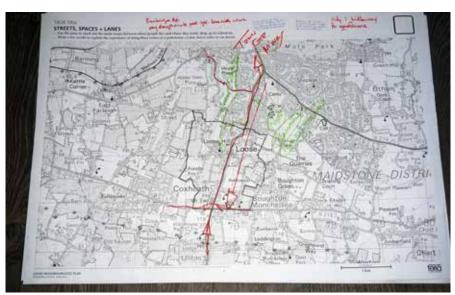


Task 06 Results



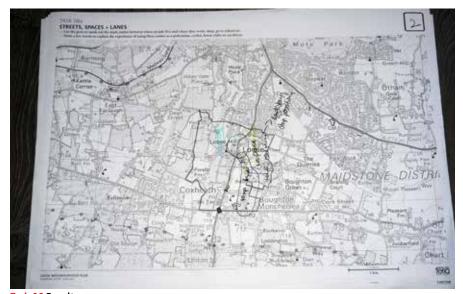


Task 06 Results

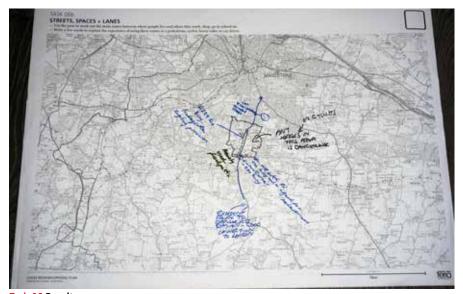


Task 06 Results

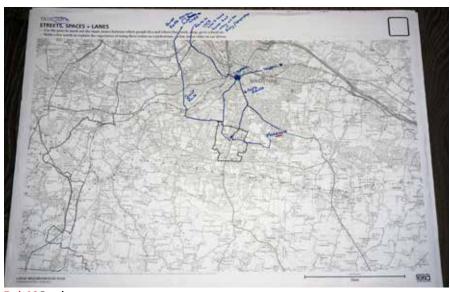
/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism



Task 06 Results



Task 06 Results



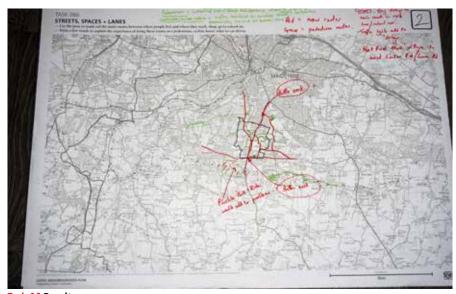
Task 06 Results



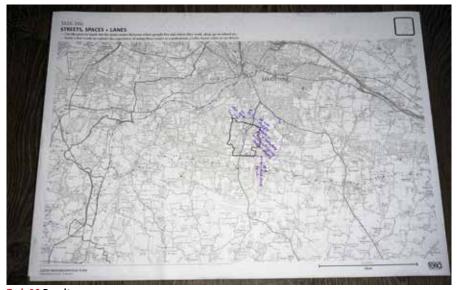
Task 06 Results

/ Loose Parish Council

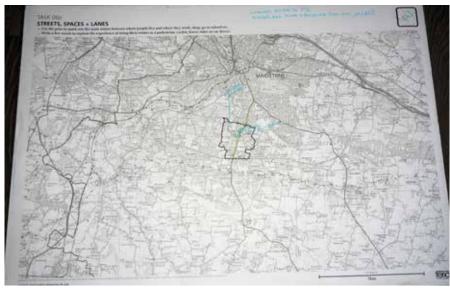
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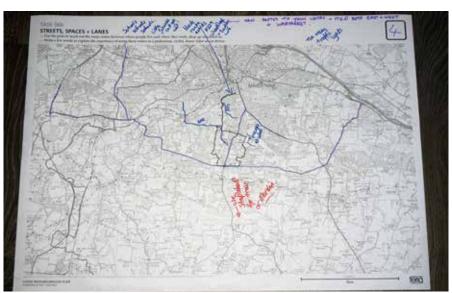
Task 06 Results



Task 06 Results



Task 06 Results



Task 06 Results

/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism

Task 07 Participants explore the strengths of Loose parish

TASK 07 — THE FUTURE

BEST THINGS ABOUT LOOSE

10 mentions

Green Open Spaces

6 mentions

Loose Valley // Leisure Footpaths // Post Office // Allotments // Pub // Sense of Community

5 mentions

Historic buildings + Quality Architecture // Schools // Stream //

4 mentions

Church

3 mentions

Good Bus Route

2 mentions

YMCA // Viaduct // Quiet // Local Petrol Station

1 mention

Low Crime Rates // Low Housing Density // Nursing Home // Local Barbers // Play Areas inc. King George V Field // Village Hall + Community Centre

THINGS THAT COULD BE BETTER IN LOOSE

10 mentions

Traffic

9 mentions

Parking

4 mentions

Sundays, Evenings and Elderly Bus Service // Litter //

2 mentions

Enclosed area for dogs in park // Introduce cycle lanes // Village hall and Community Centre // Medical facilities //

1 mention

Amenities // No pre-school // Post office // King George V Skate Park // Play areas inc. King George V // Control of social housing // Shops - could have a farm shop and tea room // The narrow roads // Street lighting // Footpaths - Improved pavements and keep them maintained // Access to motorways // Post office // Historical buildings & quality architecture

THINGS THAT FELL INTO BOTH CATEGORIES

The six things that fell into both of these categories and can be labelled as "the best things about Loose that could be improved" are:

......

- 1. Post Office
- 2. **Shops** Could we have a farm shop and tea room?
- 3. Play Areas inc. King George V Field
- **4. Footpaths, Improved Pavements** Need to be kept maintained!
- 5. Village Hall + Community Centre
- 6. Historic Buildings + Quality Architecture

CONCLUSIONS

The post office is something that is used by the majority of residents on a regular basis. Although residents enjoy having a post office, they feel it could be improved further. This could include longer opening times and a lick of paint!

Although the shops are generally considered good, there is a lack of variety. Participants suggested that Loose could benefit from a farm shop or tea room. These could also provide a choice of a social places to meet.

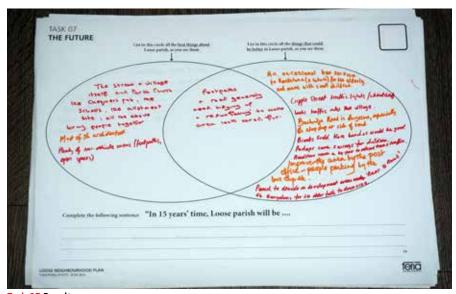
The King George V Field was seen as both a park and a playing field. Most thought it was great but many feel it is targeted at younger children instead of teenagers. It needs more activities but is considered a positive thing, as it is the only "park" in the parish.

The majority of recreational footpaths are beautiful and picturesque but could benefit from better maintenance in some areas. For example, they are overgrown plants and with poor quality surfaces.

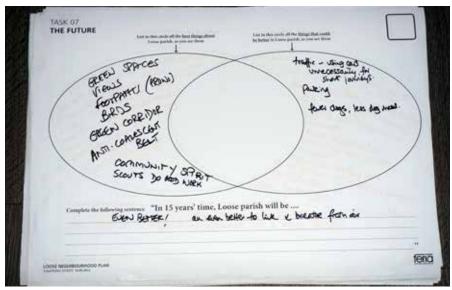
Although the pavilion is good, it is often too small for bigger events.

Loose has a reputation for historic and beautiful architecture but there is a worry that this could be spoilt by unsympathetic new housing developments.

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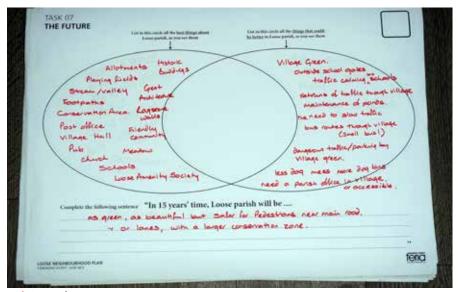


Task 07 Results

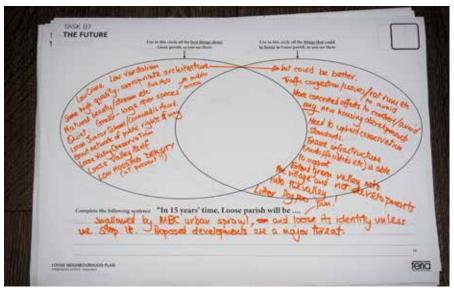


Task 07 Results

/ Feria Urbanism

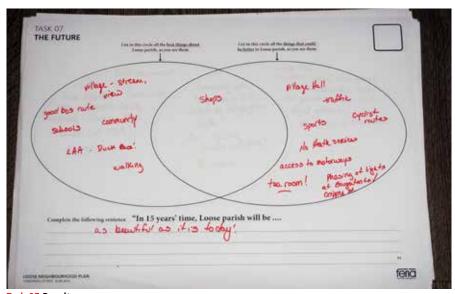


Task 07 Results

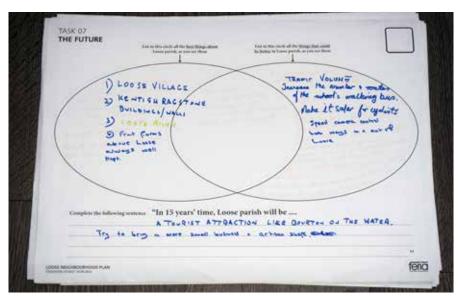


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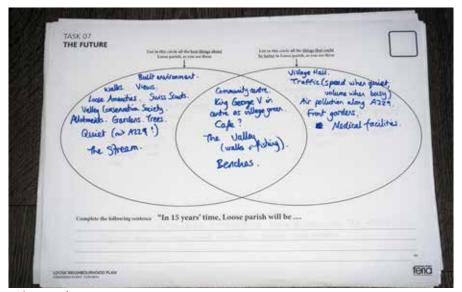
/ Loose Parish Council



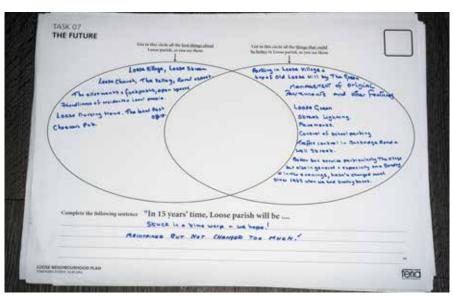
Task 07 Results



Task 07 Results

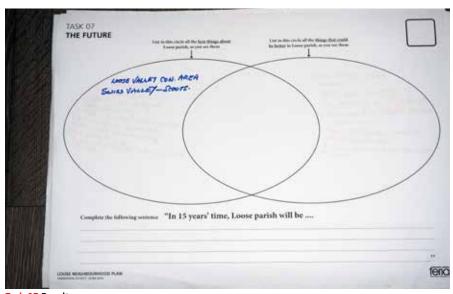


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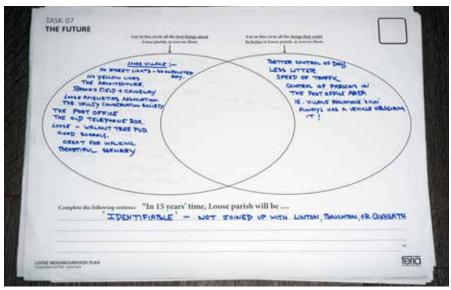


Task 07 Results

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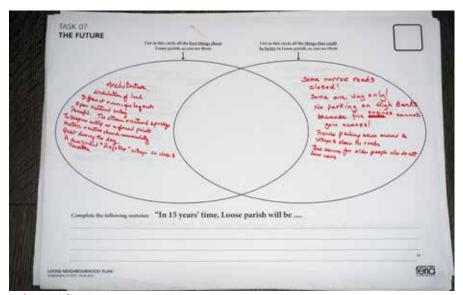


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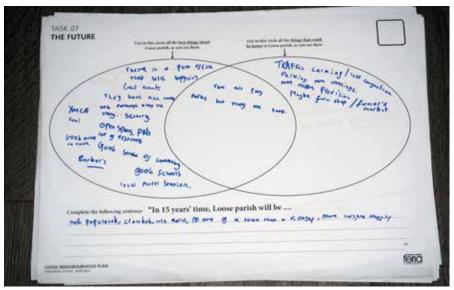


Task 07 Results

/ Feria Urbanism

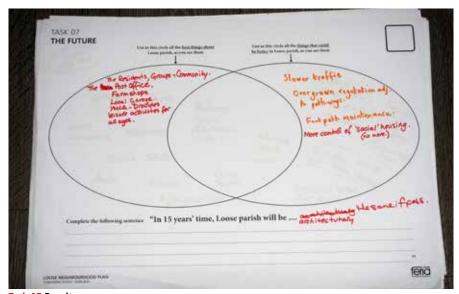


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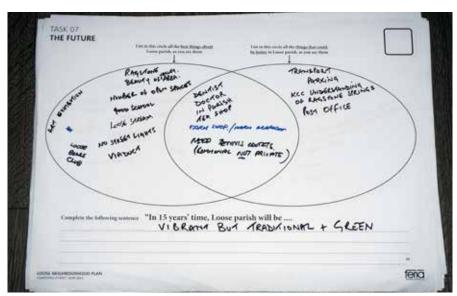


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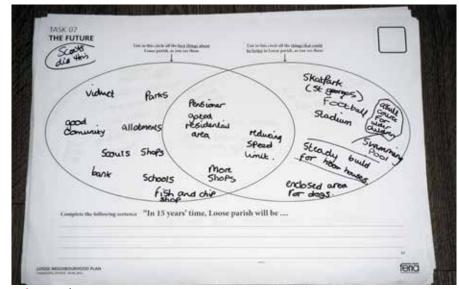
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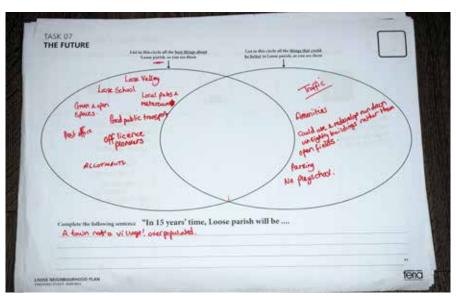
Task 07 Results



Task 07 Results



Task 07 Results



Task 07 Results

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/ October 2014

TASK 08 — DAYTIME, EVENING + NIGHT TIME

SAFE AREAS — DAY TIME

- Most groups agreed that they generally felt safe across Loose Village and in Loose Valley.
- Brooks Field was mentioned as being safe on more than one occasion.
- The King George V Playing Field and park were both mentioned as safe.
- Other areas where people felt safe were at home, school, the shop, the pub and general community spaces/footpaths.

SAFE AREAS — EVENING

- Most groups agreed that they generally felt safe across Loose Village and in Loose Valley.
- The King George V Playing Field was mentioned again along with the countryside and supervised activities e.g. Scouts.

SAFE AREAS — NIGHT

/ 50

- The village pubs (Chequers + Walnut Tree) came up on a few occasions along with the path home from the pub.
- Loose Village was mentioned several times although lack of street lighting was seen as a problem.
- Walking on main roads in Loose Valley, Kirkdale and the A229 all after dark were all mentioned as feeling safe.

UNSAFE AREAS — DAY TIME

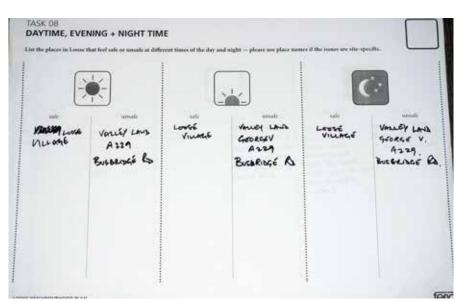
- Parking and traffic on Lancet Lane and nearby roads during school drop-off and pick-up times.
- A229 western pavement is too narrow and overgrown.
- A229 traffic volume for cyclists.
- Busbridge Road for pedestrians.
- Crossing A229 as traffic is too fast and needs better speed control.
- Pedestrian crossing on Leigh Avenue.
- Unsafe to walk along Well Street, Salts Lanes, Cripple Street and Linton Hill and Linton Corner.
- The steps from Old Loose Close.
- Parking at the shop.
- Dogs off the lead can make places feel unsafe.
- Dog mess on pavements.
- Unsafe to walk along Well Street due to traffic.

UNSAFE AREAS — EVENING

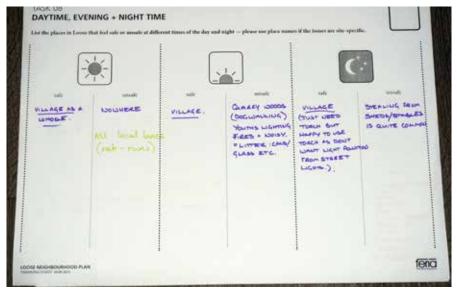
- A229 traffic volume for both cyclists and pedestrians.
- Busbridge Road, Wells Street and Cripple Street.
- Linton Hill/Linton Corner.
- · Waiting for buses.
- Brooks to Salts Pond as a pedestrian.
- Places in the village where there are no street lamps e.g. footpath by allotment, which is unlit in the evenings.
- · Quarry Woods.

UNSAFE AREAS — NIGHT

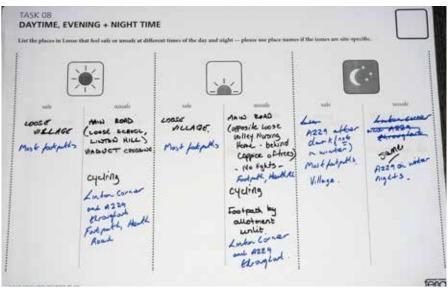
- A229 traffic volume for both cyclists and pedestrians, especially in winter.
- Walnut Tree Avenue and King George V playing field.
- Footpaths at the top of Pickering Street and waiting for buses.
- Some found walking through the village in darkness unsafe with a general lack of street lighting.
- Quarry and Wood areas were mentioned as well as Brooks to Salts Pond as a pedestrian.
- Burglaries from sheds are common with burglaries in the Norrington Road/ Leigh Avenue area.
- Busbridge Road + Well Street (no pavement and lots of traffic).
- Footpath to Valley Drive/Waldrin Drive and Cripple Street.



Task 08 Results

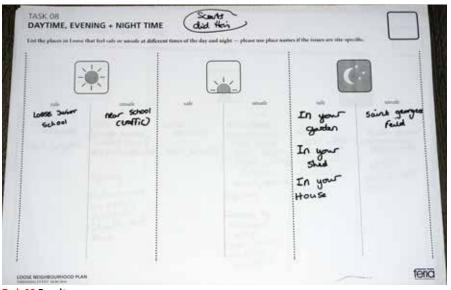


Task 08 Results

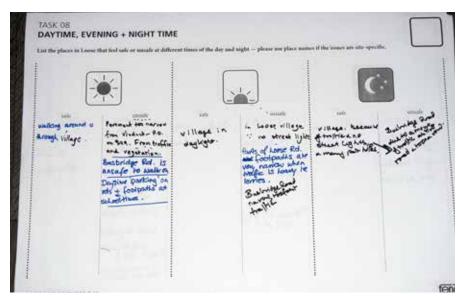


Task 08 Results

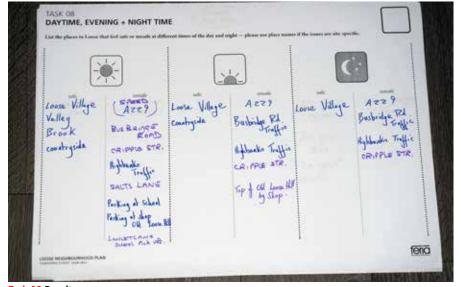
/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism



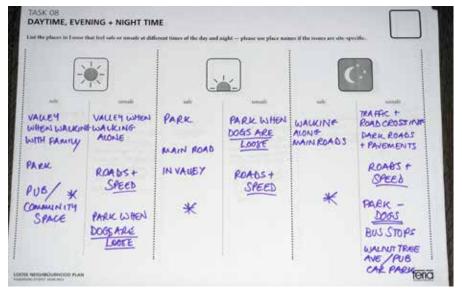
Task 08 Results



Task 08 Results



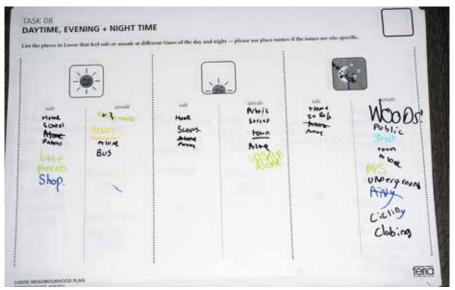
Task 08 Results



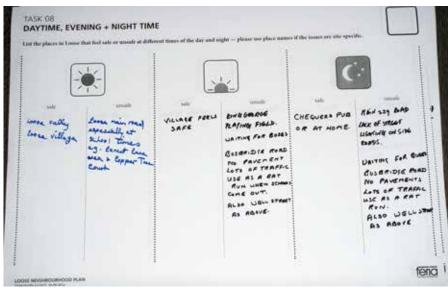
Task 08 Results

/ Loose Parish Council

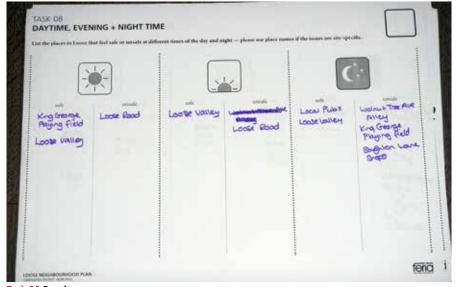
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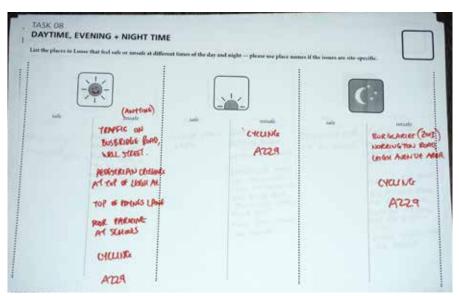
Task 08 Results



Task 08 Results



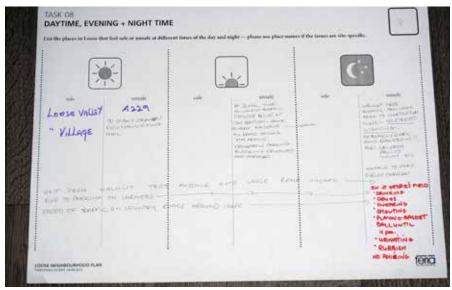
Task 08 Results



Task 08 Results

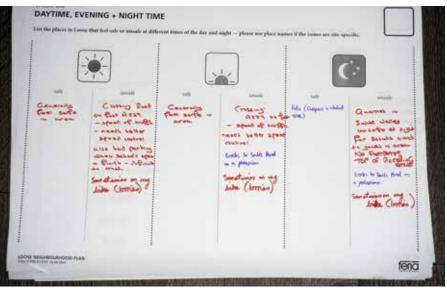
/ Loose Parish Council / Feria Urbanism

TASK OB

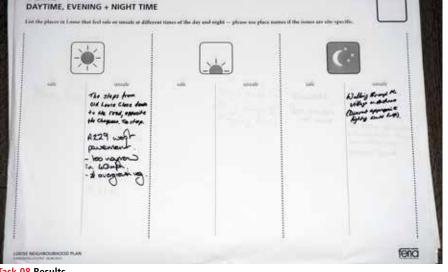


Task 08 Results

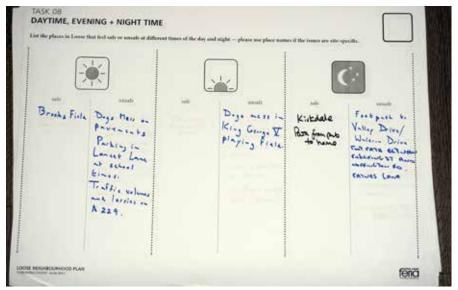
/ 54



Task 08 Results



Task 08 Results



Task 08 Results

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Task Tables All participants completed each of the eight different tasks, contributing valuable material to the evidence base for the neighbourhood plan

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TASK 01

PEOPLE + PLACES



List some of the challenges or opportunities faced by these different groups in Loose — please use place names if the issues are site-specific.



teenagers



+ employers



pensioners + empty-nesters



young professionals without children



families with young children



visitors + tourists



students

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LOOSE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN VISIONING EVENT 10.09.2014



TASK 02 THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE	•		
Rank the one-word descriptions for Loose <u>as it is now</u> to create a top ten list.	1st.		
	2nd.		
	3rd.		
	4th.		
	5th.		
	6th.		
	7th.		
	8th.		
	9th.		
	10th.		
LOOSE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN VISIONING EVENT 10.09.2014	_	feet and the second sec	erio e-urbanism.eu

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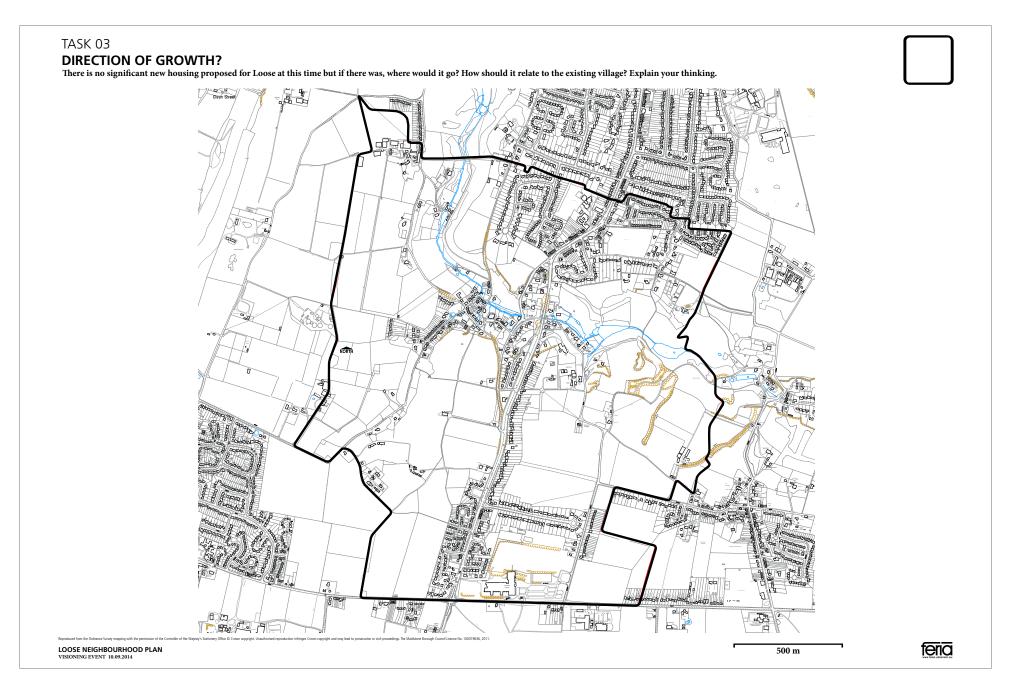
TASK 02		
This is a special place OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM	Inspiring	
	Enterprising	
	Green	
	Serene	
	Distinctive	
	Unique	
	Personal	
	Clean	
	Fun	
	Ingenious	

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TASK 02 This is a special place Safe **OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM Friendly Imaginative** Inclusive **Attractive** Harmonious Open Considered Refreshing **Dynamic**

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TASK 05 YOUR MAIN CHALLENG	iES	
Rank the topics and issues to create a top ten list.	1st.	
	2nd.	
	3rd.	
	4th.	
	5th.	
	6th.	
	7th.	
	8th.	
	9th.	
	10th.	
LOOSE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN VISIONING EVENT 10.09.2014		

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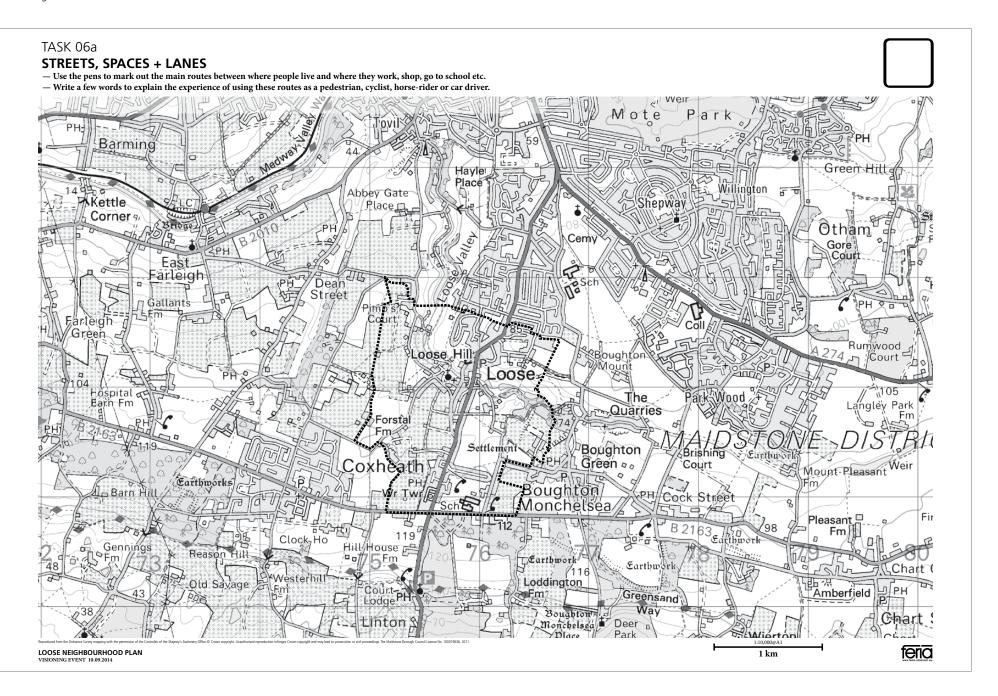
TASK 05 Your main challenges **HOUSING GROWTH OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM SHOPS NON-SCHOOL YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS + THE RETIRED SCHOOLS + EDUCATION SPORTS + LEISURE PROVISION LEADERSHIP + VOLUNTEERING COUNTRYSIDE PROTECTION ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL LAND HEALTH SERVICES**

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TASK 05 Your main challenges **ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM SENSE OF COMMUNITY TRAFFIC RAIL SERVICES EMPLOYMENT SPACE** — offices **EMPLOYMENT SPACE** — workshop/industrial **EMPLOYMENT SPACE** — work from home **SUPER-FAST BROADBAND TOWN SQUARES + CIVIC SPACES COMMUNITY ORGANISATION + STRUCTURE**

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TASK 08 DAYTIME, EVENING + NIGHT TIME List the places in Loose that feel safe or unsafe at different times of the day and night — please use place names if the issues are site-specific.								
List the places in Loose th	at feel safe or unsafe at differ	ent times of the day and n	ight — please use place name	es if the issues are site-spec	ific.			
					* * *			
safe	unsafe	safe	unsafe	safe	unsafe			
•								
-								
• • •								
•	:		•	•	:			

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