



Lyt-Up - September 2016

Illuminating our residents
www.lytchettminsterandupton-tc.gov.uk
Mrs Karen Wright, ALLCM—Town Clerk

Lytchett Minster and
Upton Town Council

1 Moorland Parade, Upton
01202 632070

Town Square Consultation—An Update



Thanks to all residents who completed questionnaires about a possible town square and/or who took part in the follow-up consultation at the Poole Road Scout Hut on 23 July.

425 residents (about 13% of households in Upton and Lytchett Minster) completed questionnaires distributed to homes in June.

Over half these residents (55%) disliked the idea of creating a town square on the land in front of 15-33 Poole Road.

As the Council would have needed to borrow money to fund the scheme, this could have added around 20p per week to average council tax bills on an on-going basis and cost was the main reason residents gave for opposing the scheme.

Other reasons for disliking the idea were:

- a view that Upton already has enough seating/green areas/public spaces***
- concerns about drunks or young people congregating in the square***
- a view that this was a poor location, too near a busy main road, and likely to add to traffic/parking problems***
- concerns that the idea might be unfair on 15-33 Poole Road residents.***

At the consultation on 23rd July, about 50 residents made a number of suggestions for what should happen to the council-owned plots of land at 15-33 Poole Road and the Town Council is considering the viability of ideas proposed, most of which centred around keeping the plots as green areas or gardens. The Town Council and 15-33 Poole Road residents are exploring options to ensure the plots remain as green areas, free from building or development, and are in communication with a number of organisations who might be able to help, including Fields in Trust and Dorset Wildlife Trust.

On the questionnaires and at the consultation there were other suggestions for improving Upton, such as enhancing existing green spaces, in particular Upton Rec, and the Town Council is examining the ideas proposed, while taking into account residents' opposition to ideas that would involve a significant increase in council tax.