

## 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – Notes of meeting with Business 1 following Business/Employment Survey

### Approval of meeting notes:

This is a very good summary. I would say that high speed internet is as essential as any other utility, and there are parts of the parish that don't have it. Its remote farm buildings, cottages, etc which will be the driver for businesses in the future – this is where good people and interesting businesses want to live and work. The environment is just as important for digital businesses (as it is in California) and thinking about the connectivity within the neighbourhood – cycling, walking, public transport is going to be vital if we're not going to be dominated and fenced in by dual carriageways. And yes, how we remodel junction 25 for non-vehicles is key too.

### Notes of meeting:

Thanks for coming over earlier today to help inform the neighbourhood plan. I have tried to summarise our discussion below. Please let me know of any errors or omissions. Once we have something your happy with I shall forward to the rest of the committee.

### Internet:

The internet is very important to the business and this importance will grow.

Their current internet speed is about 6mb. Conversely I have fibre to a box down the road and get circa 72mb. Without good access to internet household/business/people are in effect going to be disenfranchised. Internet important for generation "Z". they have been brought up in the digital age and expect/require/need good internet access. Hard to attract/retain good young people without it.

Internet is the new way of working/doing business. We need to push for better internet connectivity throughout the parish. Fibre access necessary throughout the parish ideally to the home/workplace.

### Use of Office Shares:

The business owner uses hot desking/temporary meeting spaces as required to conduct business meetings. Eg Regus type of offering or The Exchange in The Crescent in town. Something similar at Nexus/Woodlands Castle/Village Hall perhaps.

Provides a focal point for accessing business support. Could be private run (example at a farm near Langport) or by local authority via Economic development function.

### Aesthetics of Local Area:

Often overlooked by people who have lived here all their lives or for a very long time. The business owner moved down from London 7 yrs ago and loves the countryside and how safe the area looks, feels and actually is. We should look to enhance/protect this. Feels it's very important.

### Transport:

It's not just old people that use public transport. Increasingly young people do as they can't afford to run a car. Provision is poor.

Cycling underestimated.

Not easy to walk/cycle from Thornfalcon to anywhere else. No path/cycle route along A358. Thornfalcon not connected to the rest of the Neighbourhood Plan by foot/cycle path. It's difficult to get to town.

J25 for pedestrians/cyclists very dangerous.

The business owner would be happy to talk to the committee as a whole to better explain his business needs and how he symbolises in many ways the new way of working from home that many people are now engaged in.

He would also be happy to input more directly about living in Thornfalcon.