

Question submitted to the Leader of the Council by Andrew Joesbury

Dear councillors,

Bolsover district has been allocated £15 million from the government regeneration fund.

This is from the 2019 district plan

South Normanton

6.64 South Normanton is the most southerly of the four towns. It is also one of the poorest performing shopping areas, based on our 2017 Study. Only 1.2% of the whole of the study area's convenience expenditure takes place in South Normanton; the same as in Bolsover; but only a fifth of the spending that takes place in Clowne.

6.65 At 2.1%, the amount of comparison shopping seems strong. However, this includes the East Midlands Designer Outlet; a major out of town clothing and comparison shopping destination; which is likely to be the major part of this expenditure and is divorced from the town centre by around 1.5 miles, the M1 and the A38 dual carriageway.

6.66 Like Bolsover, the most concerning statistic is that South Normanton only retains around 20% of its immediate catchment zone's convenience expenditure. This shows that whilst the centre is not playing a role in attracting shoppers from a wider area, it retains very little of the food shopping expenditure from the centre of the town.

6.67 The Regeneration Framework, identifies 3 main village centre projects:

- a) Redesign and re-establish Market Place as the heart of the Village – High priority urban design project and delivery to improve pedestrian movement and experience in the village centre, including improved signage and replacement of the Market Place clock
- b) New and enhanced connections to greenways – Development of connections to the Blackwell Trail and upgrades along The Common and Alfreton Road to create a 'shared route'

Taken from the Vision Bolsover District 2

The councils ambition for town centre development is to support and invest in the 4 town centres to make them more sustainable and thriving places for communities to live and enjoy.

To improve the physical appearance, provide flexible space to create shopping havens, cafe culture, community venues etc.

To work with our partners (parish councils) to develop the 4 town centres and continue to bid for funding.

Funding is normally not available unless the project is designed, planned, costed and had preliminary planning permission from the stakeholders, otherwise known as being 'shovel ready'.

Before the last election councillors from the south of the district were invited to the meeting of the Growth Committee .

The biggest complaint was that the majority of funding went to the north of the district.

After some debate the committee agreed that South Normanton should be used as a pilot scheme, with help from the council, to become shovel ready to allow for application for funding as soon as it was available.

As proof of the majority of funding going to the north of the district these next points are taken from the In Touch and Bolsover Vision 2.

South Normanton and the south of the district is hardly mentioned.

The mention of South Normanton is that '£600k has been invested for new or refurbished play equipment or improvements to the sports pitches in South Normanton, Bolsover, Tibshelf and Pleasley.'

The only thing that I know in South Normanton of is the drainage of the Boundary rugby field, which came out of section 106 funding.

Meanwhile, from the publications

-£1.5m invested in Go Active in Clowne

-Introduction of 2 growth plans for Shirebrook and Creswell.

-£9.6m for the crematorium in Shirebrook.

-Assisted with the building of the £3m Creswell Heritage Centre and well being centre.

-£100k from Safer Streets fund towards a new skate park in Bolsover.

-Creswell Crag discovery trail.

-Spent £1m on the Tangent extension in Shirebrook.

My questions are 'How are the councillors and leadership going to make the £15m is allocated fairly?

'The district plan of 2019 hasn't made any improvement to South Normanton in 5 years so when is the Bolsover district vision 2 going to improve the town centres?'

'why wasn't the agreed Growth Committee motion of using South Normanton as a pilot scheme acted on?'

Andrew Joesbury has confirmed that his question to the Leader of the Council is:

How are the councillors and leadership going to make the £15m is allocated fairly?