**20 Minute Neighbourhoods**

**Barbara Mumford**

“20 Minute Neighbourhoods are a method of achieving connected and compact neighbourhoods designed in such a way that all people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable walk, wheel or cycle (approx. 800m) of their home.”

Questions to ask:

* What features and infrastructure are required – everything from services to jobs, pavements and greenspaces?
* What is the quality of experience when interacting with these features?
* Does it meet the test of ‘living well locally’?
* Are the services accessible, the paths safe and the jobs good?
* How do you best encourage behaviour change, e.g. the adoption of active or public transport modes, home working or buying local?
* How to keep costs competitive and avoid ‘captive audience’ profiteering?

Public participation is key in ascertaining what is required as this differs from community to community.

Current closures of local businesses in all villages and towns ask the question: ‘Will it work if there is no uptake on running the businesses? Shinfield supermarket as a local example.

Libraries – Dentists - Post Office – Pubs – Banks – Doctors – Pharmacies - Cafes

Survey conducted for Scotland concluded thus:

Methods like the 20 MN are attractive. They are aspirational, they make great headlines, and they are easy to shoehorn any intervention into, giving the superficial impression that they are relevant.

**There is a crucial difference, however . . .**between the things people might want or expect in their daily lives and the things that are essential for daily living. Top-down approaches to community planning frequently confuse *expectations with need*. The replacement, for example, of mobile library services with electric vehicle (EV) door to door book deliveries might make sense from a convenience point of view but it also removes a shared space from communities, a lifeline for those who are socially isolated.

This can be applied to many services and care needs to be taken to ensure the system works.

Universally accepted features of a 20-minute neighbourhood simplified.

