

RUDDINGTON VILLAGE PLAN

STEERING GROUP MEETING

*'CONSULTING WITH THE COMMUNITY TO PRODUCE A PLAN
WHICH WILL PRESENT YOUR VIEWS FOR RUDDINGTON'S FUTURE'*

Draft Minutes for Tuesday 20th May 2014 commencing 7.00pm at St. Peter's Rooms.

Present (alph): Annette Auckland (P C)

Cathy Brown

Phil Brown

Linda Cooke

Secretary

Helen Opie (P C)

Project Manager

Ali Ritchie

Chairman

Barbara Venes (P C)

Gavin Walker

Graham Wright

Also present: Jenny Kirkwood (RCAN - Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire)

Allen Wood (Chairman of Ruddington Parish Council and the Parish Council Estates Working Group)

Phil Crompton (Head Teacher at Rushcliffe School)

Apologies: None

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman invited Annette to make an announcement on her behalf.

Annette told members that Nikki Herbison, the Chairman of the St Mary's Community Park Project, had died suddenly on Sunday 18th May 2014. Nikki has left a husband and two young sons. The Steering Group expressed their shock and sorrow at this news and asked that their condolences be passed on to the family.

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – ESTATES WORKING GROUP

Allen Wood, who is currently chairman of the Estates Working Group (EWG) and has recently been elected to Chairman of the Parish Council, was invited to talk about the work of this group and how it might affect the consultation for the Village Plan.

Allen explained that following a consultation in 2012, the Parish Council was aware that some residents were asking for a new community centre, something that could accommodate a variety of activities. The EWG had been set up to look at council assets and considered the "plus's and minus's" of each of them. When Nottinghamshire County Council announced the closure of the Youth Centre on the Green, it asked to speak to any party or organisation that might be interested in taking over the facility and the Parish Council expressed an interest. At this moment in time, all the Parish Council has been told is that NCC are looking at a 10 year lease on the premises with no rental to pay, but the tenant must pay the running costs and provide youth facilities for up to 3 nights a week. Running costs currently stand at around £25,000 per annum but this does not include provision of

youth workers and there is the issue of utilities which are currently negotiated by the NCC in bulk. Income currently stands at £4,500 per annum. The Parish Council had expressed an interest in a long term investment in the premises but NCC may wish to take it back after the 10 year tenancy if finances allow. In the immediate future, the Parish Council has requested a copy of the tender document so that it can view it in detail and consider whether further action is possible. Allen explained that if no-one took up the tenancy, the building would be handed over to NCC Estates Department.

Further discussions confirmed that there is a need for youth facilities in the village as some are unable/unwilling to travel to West Bridgford but that the cost of this provision might be prohibitive. Allen also confirmed that the EWG had obtained valuations on some of its assets in the event that it might need to raise funds in the future. However, in the meantime the Parish Council could make no further comment until it had considered the tender document and decided how or whether it could take further action.

The Chairman thanked Allen for his openness and for answering questions from the group. Allen confirmed that he would be happy to attend future meetings as and when he had more information to ensure the consultation process for the Village Plan was relevant in respect of these issues.

Allen left at 7.40pm

Helen reminded members that any obligation taken on by the Parish Council in respect of this tenancy would need to be reflected in an increase in the precept.

MINUTES & UPDATES

Minutes from the meeting of 22nd April 2014, were accepted.

Linda confirmed that as the Clerk had been absent for a period during May, the issue of signage and cemetery / ash vault space had not been answered but hoped to have feedback for the next meeting.

Helen's 'consolidation sheets' have been updated and circulated to all members.

RBC had finally confirmed that the 102 properties on Pasture Lane do not form part of the 250 new homes which Ruddington is expected to provide.

DRAFT MINUTES

The group agreed that once the Chairman had approved meeting minutes and they had been circulated to members, if no-one has expressed any objections to their content, minutes could be posted online on the Parish Council website, on Facebook and Twitter marked as 'DRAFT' and then confirmed at the next meeting. Any changes could be highlighted in the next set of minutes.

CONSULTATION WITH RUSHCLIFFE SCHOOL

At this point, Phil Crompton, the Head Teacher at Rushcliffe School arrived to talk about issues related to the students, teachers, parents and the school itself, particularly where it affects residents of Ruddington.

Phil confirmed that Rushcliffe School takes students from the Ruddington catchment area and most pupils from St Peter's Junior School go to Rushcliffe School. The school is currently full with an intake of 250 this year compared with a norm of 232, however, Ruddington pupils are guaranteed a place.

Phil spoke at length about the school and its aims and achievements, so the information below is a brief résumé of the issues he felt the Village Plan could possibly help with.

Travel – The bus service is generally reliable but there are times when it is less so and students can feel let down when the bus is late. There are sometimes issues with student's behaviour and sometimes issues with the driver being a little brusque, but students from Ruddington have little option but to use this service. Some children choose not to stay behind for after-school activities as they would need to catch a special late bus provided by the school. The school would like more children to cycle to school but the current route would be far too dangerous. It is hoped that when the Sharphill Wood Development starts, the underpass which passes under the A52 will be open to cyclists and a safe route to the school be available to students.

Intake – Phil confirmed that even taking in to account the Sharphill Wood Development, the school would be able to cope with anticipated intake for the next 8 years. The new 6th form college will open in September 2015 and with the closure of the leisure centre, there is scope for further expansion. The school currently has 1450 students which will rise to 1600 when the 6th form is at capacity but the school and its governors were concerned that once it rises to 2,000+ it becomes less of a family.

Sports – In 2013 Rushcliffe School won Sporting School of the Year in the county and is very proud of its diversity of sports achievements. Within the school, football and gymnastics thrive and parents are generally happy to ferry children about to take part in other less obvious activities like archery, horse riding and kayaking. With the closure of the leisure centre, the school will miss the swimming pool but the neglected artificial pitch will be refurbished by a local sports group and will share usage with the school having access to it in the daytime. When pushed, Phil said that somewhere for children to learn rugby in the area would be greatly welcomed.

Other outside interests – The school was aware that there is a huge interest in drama and the arts and students from the school do well in this area. Children living in West Bridgford benefit from joining local drama groups but there is no such group in Ruddington to provide background provision.

Parents/staff – The school would be happy to consider some form of parents' evenings or information evenings based in Ruddington so that those without suitable transport could hear more about what is happening in the school.

Consultation – Jenny asked if children from the school could be 'encouraged' to complete the consultation document online as part of their ICT lessons as had happened in Radcliffe on Trent? Phil confirmed that he would be happy to recommend this when the time arrives.

The Chairman thanked Phil for coming along and speaking to the group. His input would be very helpful when tackling the issues of teenagers' needs in the village. He left at 8.40pm.

VILLAGE PLAN LOGO / BRANDING

The group agreed that the concept provided by Oliver Higgins was most popular and voted to use the logo with RVP on the tree silhouette. It was agreed that Gavin would make adjustments to the church spire to make it more like St Peter's Church and therefore more appropriate for the village. Once modified, Linda would contact Mr Higgins and ask if he would approve the modifications. If so, this version would be selected as the winning entry.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Graham confirmed that the number of followers on Facebook has risen to 208 (from 202) and on Twitter to 101 (from 84). Following was building nicely and it is hoped that with minutes being posted more promptly, this might increase interest. Gavin said that he is waiting for approval on the logo before going live with Pinterest.

It was thought that photographs taken at the forthcoming Beer Festival in the village might be appropriate for publishing on the sites to promote the village. It was agreed that next year the Village Plan Steering Group might consider a presence at the festival to promote the consultation.

OUTLINE QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO SPORT, LEISURE AND YOUNG PEOPLE

It was agreed that as the group had received two visitors to this meeting, this part of the agenda would be postponed until the next meeting and would form the main item for discussion. In the meantime, Helen and Ali asked that the group consider questions that might be suitable. It was agreed that at this point, it would not be necessary to restrict the number of questions as long as they are appropriate and that the finer tuning could be done at a later date. Jenny commented that the only criteria at the moment would be how useful the answer to a question will be to the plan?

NEXT STEPS & VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Further volunteers and advisors would not be invited to the next meeting to enable the group to concentrate on the issues for this section. However, Ali should email the Head Teachers of St Peter's Junior School and James Peacock Infant and Nursery School again to ask that, as a result of the success of Mr Crompton's visit, they might like to reconsider whether they have any issues they would like the group to include.

OTHER MATTERS

Start time and dates – it was agreed that in future the start time for all meetings would be 7.00pm so that it is easier to accommodate visitors and advisors with specific knowledge. Linda said that she would speak to the Parish Council Office to confirm additional dates to take the group up to Christmas 2014.

ACTIONS

1. Speak to the Parish about increasing signage and maps in the village (to museums, parks, etc)
2. The Clerk to be asked about cemetery space and allocation at Vicarage Lane Cemetery
3. Head teachers of St Peter's School and James Peacock School to be contacted again about issues for the next meeting
4. Agenda items for the next meeting:
 - a. To confirm the winner of the logo 'competition'
 - b. To progress the social media sites
 - c. To start the questionnaire process for sport, leisure and young people
 - d. Next steps
 - e. Any other items which may arise

CLOSE

9.05pm