

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 16th September 2014 commencing 7.00pm at St. Peter's Rooms.

Present (alph): Annette Auckland (P C)
Cathy Brown
Phil Brown
Linda Cooke Secretary
Ali Ritchie Chairman
Barbara Venes (P C)
Gavin Walker
Graham Wright

Also present: Jenny Kirkwood (RCAN – Rural Community Action Nottingham)
Paul Baker (Museum Manager, Framework Knitters Museum)
Barbara Breakwell (Police Priority Setting Meetings & Parish Councillor)
Joanna Jagiello (Ruddington Village, Facebook)

Apologies: Helen Opie (P C) Project Manager

WELCOME

Ali welcomed the visitors to the meeting and looked forward to their contributions on the issues of 'Environment and Heritage'.

MINUTES & UPDATES

The minutes from the meeting of 29th July 2014 were accepted.

St Peter's Church Of England Junior School

Ali reported that John Mapperley, the head teacher at St Peter's Church of England Junior School, had been in contact over the past few weeks and wanted to assure the group that he / the school was keen to be involved with the process. He had asked to attend the current meeting but it was felt that as the subject matter had moved on to 'Environment and Heritage' it would not necessarily be helpful at this time. However, the group would be delighted for Mr Mapperley to contribute when the section of 'Sport, Leisure and Young People' is reviewed at a later meeting nearer the end of the process. Mr Mapperley also said that he would be pleased to organise a visit for members of the steering group to the school if that would help with the consultation. Ali extended her thanks to Mr Mapperley for this offer.

There were no further updates or feedback to report at this time.

ISSUES RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Ali confirmed that because of the constant changes in transport and highways issues, these would be excluded from the section until a later date.

Additional notes were circulated which had been provided by Simon Hilditch and were used along with notes provided by Ian Wilson which were circulated earlier.

Policing & crime

Barbara Breakwell explained that she is currently the Parish Council's representative on the Police Priority Setting Meetings which are held in West Bridgford and are attended by the Inspector, currently Craig Berry, officers from each beat area and community representatives. The aim of the group is to report on the status of crime over the last 3 months, highlight any emerging trends and submit a priority for the next 3 months.

She explained that Ruddington's neighbourhood police team is currently 2 PCSO's and a beat manager who have an administration base in St Peter's Rooms. *'The main ongoing thrust is police surveys and encouraging people to complete them, and encouraging people to sign up to the alert system which is a free email system which messages up-to-date incidents and advice to subscribers.'*

'Police have undertaken bike coding sessions in the village and hold Beat Surgeries outside the main stores on a regular basis. They also try to send representation to the monthly Saturday morning Parish Surgeries. In the Village Newsletter we have a monthly police snippet which reinforces contact details and advises about key issues.'

Barbara added that information about Ruddington and policing can be found at the website Nottinghamshire.police.uk where they publish local updates on a monthly basis. They also offer free home security checks and advice.

After some discussion, the group considered that the main issues that could be included in the consultation questionnaire would be related to the availability and accessibility of the police, identifying priorities, communication, crime prevention and surveys.

Ali thanked Barbara for a comprehensive report and asked her to stay on and assist with other areas in the meeting.

Heritage

Paul Baker and Jo Jagiello both made considerable contributions to a number of issues from a professional and a 'user' perspective and with their help, along with Barbara Breakwell, a number of issues were identified as being suitable and relevant to Ruddington and the consultation.

Issues covered included a Village Trail (or something of a similar name), signage for both drivers and walkers, advice posts, tourist information and notice boards, and establishing better links with Rushcliffe Country Park and the Heritage Centre. The installation of a 'feature' or 'structure' for the centre of the village incorporating information, directions, history, etc.

Environment

Again, our guests made a considerable contribution to these discussions and together the following issues were identified as being suitable for the consultation. Additional dog waste bag dispensers and encouragement to pickup, additional and/or larger waste bins, uniformity of street furniture, additional planters and/or flower beds and the suitability of bus shelters, whether they are fit for purpose and appropriately sited.

The group also thought it appropriate to include a question whether residents and businesses would like to see the return of a dedicated street cleaner? Also, whether both or either would be prepared to contribute towards this facility with an increase in council tax.

A question as to whether residents would like an increased use of the Green and other open spaces for more activities was also discussed with possible uses by fairs or fetes, not only commercial but also local organisations fund raising and charity events.

The group briefly discussed the issues of renewable energy and a Community Energy Scheme. Areas identified as being appropriate at this time included whether residents thought they had access to information on renewable energy which would still be in keeping with a village street scene and suitable for a Conservation Area. Also, whether someone would be interested in investigating / setting up a Community Energy Scheme if there was a demand for it.

Very few members had any experience of 'Twinning' and wondered whether a question on this issue would need considerable explanation. However, it was agreed that it might be appropriate to include something to assess local interest.

Ali thanked the three guests for their considerable and valuable contributions and they left at this point. All three guests said they would be pleased to contribute further as and when appropriate and Linda confirmed she would send agendas for the relevant meetings. Ali also asked Linda to send thanks to both Ian Wilson and Simon Hilditch for their written contributions.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Graham reported that mainly as a result of the 'sample questions' being posted online, there had been an increase in following of both the Facebook and Twitter sites. Twitter had risen to 162 'followers' and Facebook to 250 'likes'. More interestingly, the Pinterest site had also gained 4 followers and members were encouraged to go online and spread the word.

Two of the three questions posted to date had raised considerable interest. The Community Growing Scheme had been enthusiastically welcomed and the alcohol-free bar had raised both positive and negative responses. However, possibly because of the demographic of users of these sites, the question on adult education had not received any interest.

Graham confirmed that he still had a question relating to a teen shelter to use and the group agreed to add a question based on whether residents 'feel safe in the village and if not, why not?' as the additional question for September and October posting.

NEXT STEPS & VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

The next meeting would be to compose questions related to 'Environment and Heritage' based on the discussions and reports presented and discussed. It will be a 'closed' meeting to enable the group to concentrate on the task in hand.

PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

The Parish Council discussed its representation on the Village Plan Steering Group at its meeting on 9th September 2014 and made the following resolution:

Resolved that: The 3 Parish Council representatives on the Village Plan Steering Group should be reconsidered at the Annual Parish Council Meeting following the elections in May 2015 and at the Annual Parish Council Meetings each year thereafter.

It was agreed that the group has much work to do between now and May 2015 and if necessary, it would consider this issue again at that time.

Ali read an emailed statement from Helen which Helen had agreed to present at the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. Members noted its content and made no comment other than to question the referral of the group as a sub-committee. Ali asked for these minutes to record that the group is 'affiliated to' and not a 'sub-committee of' the Parish Council as had previously been minuted.

OTHER MATTERS

Future meetings

Linda confirmed that she would speak to the Parish Council office to book dates for January to May 2015 inclusive and send the details to members for their diaries.

Chairman for the next meeting

Ali asked for a volunteer to chair the next meeting as she would be unable to attend. Gavin 'volunteered' and Linda would discuss the agenda with him nearer the time.

ACTIONS

1. Linda to ask the Parish Council Office to include the police walkabout surgeries in the diary pages of the Village Newsletter and Village website
2. Linda to thank Simon Hilditch and Ian Wilson for their written contributions
3. Graham to post the two selected questions to Facebook and Twitter
4. Linda to provide draft notes on the issues discussed for 'Environment and Heritage' to members before the next meeting
5. Agenda items for the next meeting:
 - a. To progress the social media sites and review the success of online questions
 - b. To compose the draft questionnaire for 'Environment and Heritage'
 - c. Next steps
 - d. Any other items which may arise

CLOSE

9.30pm