

# 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 11<sup>th</sup> November 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)  
Graham Wright

Also present: Paula Baldwin (Something Special)  
Helen Beale (Perkins Hardware)  
Simon Beale (Perkins Hardware)  
Adam Girling (A M Girling & Co)

Apologies: Gavin Walker  
Jenny Kirkwood (RCAN – Rural Community Action Nottingham)

### WELCOME

Ali welcomed the visitors to the meeting and looked forward to hearing their comments and contributions on the issues of 'Business and Commerce'.

### MINUTES & UPDATES

The minutes from the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were accepted.

### Social Media

It was noted that a Facebook follower had referred to the Youth Club as being closed. It was confirmed that while this is currently the situation, it is anticipated that the situation will change in the future.

### BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

The visitors made a number of observations about the difficulties and benefits of being in business in Ruddington and had varying ideas and suggestions to how things could be improved not only for their businesses and customers but also for residents in general.

### Policing

The first issue to be raised was one of policing, especially during the evenings when there was no visible police presence on the village streets. They reported a recent burglary of business premises in the village with considerable damage done. They were also concerned about the return of groups of apparently bored youths/teenagers in the village during the evenings, possibly as a result of the closure of the Youth Club.

### Parking

Parking continues to be a concern for businesses. Two ideas were put forward to help alleviate the current parking problems for customers and residents. One is for the village to provide a parking area specifically for local business employees or all-day parking, and the other to increase the amount of parking with a two hour limit. The visitors felt that both ideas would help free up parking spaces but acknowledged that not all business owners would be agreeable.

### Traffic and pedestrians

The business representatives present were generally not in favour of making the centre of the village pedestrian only, citing West Bridgford as a typical example where small businesses had moved out. They were however, concerned about the number of heavy vehicles using the village and anticipated an increase in through traffic when the A453 work is completed. They were generally in support of a 20mph speed restriction through the village and possibly a one-way system.

All visitors were concerned about the existing Zebra Crossing near to the Wilford Road, High Street, Easthorpe Street and Church Street junction, with recommendations ranging from moving the crossing completely, to changing it to a Pelican (traffic light controlled) Crossing.

### Engagement

Although the business representatives present had all attended the Ruddington Parish Council Business Meetings and the Ruddington Business Partnership Meetings, they felt there was still considerable opportunity for businesses to engage with each other for the benefit of the village. A nearby Trade Association was cited as a good example of where businesses were able to agree on issues such as extended opening hours for special occasions and other local issues for the benefit of their customers.

### Promoting businesses

Visitors welcomed the recent Business Directory but acknowledged that not everyone wants to advertise in this manner. It was suggested that it might be helpful if local businesses looking to reach new customers might use outlets to distribute their business cards for a small charge.

### Access to premises

Businesses make every effort to ensure easy access by customers with disabilities but acknowledged that in a village with many older, sometimes historic, buildings it was not always straight forward. Some businesses have a special bell or notice so that staff can help someone wheelchair bound or with limited mobility to enter the shop/business. It was suggested that some form of uniformity in this sign might be helpful and more easily recognised.

### Street cleaning

The visitors acknowledged the need to keep the front of their businesses tidy but thought the village would benefit from the return of an early morning street cleaner.

The Chairman thanked all four visitors for their contributions which would help the group with their selection of questions relevant to Business and Commerce. The group agreed that part of the questionnaire would be specifically for local businesses to complete.

The visitors left at this point.

#### ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Linda explained that in writing up the draft list of questions for this section, she had taken in to account comments made by Jenny, advising that the group needs to keep to the basic issues and not go in to too much detail or anticipate the possible responses.

The group agreed the draft questions for 'Environment and Heritage'.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Graham explained that there was a good number of responses to the Facebook and Twitter questions and that he could post questions more frequently if necessary. The group agreed to keep to two per month which was enough to keep readers engaged with the project and to gain some feedback on the amount of interest in each subject.

Graham read the responses to the questions about more use of open spaces in the village and whether residents would like to see the return of a regular street cleaner. Both issues had raised considerable support with the majority of responses being in favour of both.

Facebook followers had increased by 16 in the month to 274 and Twitter had increased by 17 followers to 206. Pinterest had remained unchanged at this time.

It was agreed that the next two issues would be whether the existing Zebra Crossing in the centre of the village should be replaced with a Pelican (traffic light controlled) Crossing and whether there should be a 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village.

#### NEXT STEPS & VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

The meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December would be to compile the draft questions in the Business and Commerce section taking in to account the issues raised at this meeting, and would therefore be a 'closed' meeting.

#### OTHER MATTERS

##### Sport, Leisure and Young People

Helen had reviewed other Village Plans to see if they had included any questions specifically for the 11-18 age range about health, wellbeing, alcohol, etc. and found that no other village had tackled this subject. The group agreed that this was beyond the scope of this consultation and should be left to those authorities that have the appropriate expertise. It will not be included in this section.

##### Medilink Bus Service

Ali reported that since the withdrawal of the 63 bus service from Ruddington, there was no longer a direct service for patients, visitors and staff to the Queens Medical Centre and subsequently the Medilink service for those who need to go to Nottingham City Hospital. Journey times have now at least doubled with the need to change buses at the Broad Marsh Bus Station. There is currently an online petition calling for the extension of the current Medilink Bus Service to the Clifton Park and Ride which would considerably improve the journey times for residents of Ruddington. Ali asked that people support this.

## ACTIONS

1. Linda to list issues related to Business and Commerce raised at this meeting and circulate to members before the next meeting.
2. Graham to post the two selected questions to Facebook and Twitter
3. Agenda items for the next meeting:
  - a. To progress the social media sites and review the feedback from the online questions
  - b. To compile the draft questions for the 'Business and Commerce' section of the Village Plan questionnaire
  - c. Next steps
  - d. Any other items which may arise

## CLOSE

8.35pm