

RUDDINGTON VILLAGE PLAN

STEERING GROUP MEETING

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



Minutes for Tuesday 31st March 2015 commencing 7.00pm at St. Peter's Rooms.

Present (alph): Annette Auckland (P C)

Linda Cooke	Secretary
Jean Greenwood	
John Hallatt	
Helen Opie (P C)	Project Manager
Ali Ritchie	(Chairman)
Barbara Venes	
Gavin Walker	Chairman (post election)
Graham Wright	

Also present: Jenny Kirkwood (RCAN – Rural Community Action Nottingham)
Rebecca Collinson
James Bate (Conservation Officer, Rushcliffe Borough Council)
Matthew Marshall (Principle Area Planning Officer, Rushcliffe Borough Council)

Apologies: Cathy Brown, Phil Brown, Justine Hallam and Jo Jagiello.
Alison Sail and Ian Wilson were also invited but sent their apologies

ELECTIONS

Ali confirmed that both she and Linda were standing down from their roles to enable new officers to take the project forward in to the next phase.

The group elected Gavin Walker as chairman of the Steering Group with immediate effect.

The group elected Helen Opie as secretary of the Steering Group who will take over at the next meeting.

Gavin thanked Ali and Linda on behalf of the Steering Group for their efforts over the last 18 months and was pleased that they would be continuing to support the Village Plan.

MINUTES & UPDATES

The minutes from the meeting of 3rd March 2015 were accepted.

Simon Hilditch, who had been at the above meeting, had sent in two emails bringing further issues to the attention of the group, which would be helpful when reviewing the draft questions for Transport and Highways.

WELCOME

Gavin welcomed the three guests who had volunteered to help with issues related to Housing, Planning and Conservation.

James gave a brief description of his role as Conservation Officer and the scope of the work. He mentioned that Ruddington's Conservation Area is due for reviewing.

Rebecca said that although she had only been a resident of Ruddington for 10 to 11 years, she wanted to give residents a voice when it comes to what is happening in the village. She was especially concerned that youngsters of all ages were not represented at meetings such as this one for obvious reasons, but their interests should be taken in to account for the future.

Matthew added that he was there to support James and help explain anything that fell outside the scope of the conservation officer.

HOUSING, PLANNING & CONSERVATION

The group spent considerable time discussing a number of issues, particularly in relation to the Conservation Area. These issues included how The Green could be better used for the community and the benefits of additional planting and landscaping on this area. Telephone boxes, bus stops, satellite boxes and other similar structures which form part of the village's street furniture were discussed, along with street signs and nameplates.

On residential properties, there were discussions about satellite dishes, solar power and property restorations. The group discussed what actions could be taken against buildings which were derelict and/or appeared to have been abandoned.

Rebecca left at this point due to family commitments and Gavin thanked her for her contributions.

For new properties, the RBC guests said that there were 'design ideals' for new developments although it was acknowledged that most of the Conservation Area is now fully developed and therefore new buildings tend to be outside this area. It is advisable to replicate the local styles and themes, particularly in respect of proportion and scale. Alternatively, the developer could do something contemporary as long as it was of a similar scale, but this is often preferable to badly matched brickwork, styles or details.

Graham left at this point due to work commitments.

Further discussions about housing development identified several potential questions that would give residents an opportunity to have their say in how the Strategic Plan requirement could be met. Matthew also added that once the Village Plan is completed, there would be a benefit for producing a 'Design Guide' that small developers could use as a reference.

Gavin thanked James and Matthew for their valuable help and they left at this point.

REVIEW THE DRAFT QUESTIONS FOR TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

These were accepted with the acknowledgement that they would be reviewed in the next few meetings when the final questions are selected.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Graham had left the social media report with Linda. Followers on Facebook has risen to 337 (up by 6) and on Twitter to 270 (up by 14). There had been a considerable response to the question about weight restrictions on HGVs coming through the village, all supporting the suggestion.

The group approved the next question: 'Do you know what is meant by 'the Conservation Area' and where this is in Ruddington?'

NEXT STEPS & VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT & MEETING DATES

The group agreed that since the next meeting was scheduled for immediately after the Easter break and in just 7 days time, it should be cancelled. The next meeting will therefore be 5th May which will be a closed meeting to start revising the draft questions. Linda agreed to arrange for copies of all the draft question sheets to be made available at the meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

Annual Parish Meeting

Members commented on the Annual Parish Meeting Report and amendments were approved. The report will be sent to Gary prior to the meeting and Annette agreed to attend the meeting on the Steering Group's behalf to answer any questions that might be asked by members of the public.

Questionnaire printing & distribution costs

Linda confirmed that having researched the relevant Parish Council Finance & Policy Minutes, Ruddington Parish Council had agreed 'in principle' to print the Village Plan Consultation Questionnaire for residents and businesses. The Clerk had agreed to put this on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting, hopefully for approval.

Gavin agreed to write to Nottinghamshire County Councillor, Reg Adair, to ask him to consider contributing towards the costs of distributing the questionnaire.

Consultation Events

Linda had discussed the possibility of holding these events at St Peter's Rooms with the Clerk who had suggested that this is also put on the agenda for the next PC meeting. Jenny advised that one of the most successful presentations had taken place over three consecutive days and so the group decided that the following schedule would be most likely to reach as many residents as possible: Thursday 10am to 4pm, Friday 3pm to 10pm and Saturday 9am to 2pm. Linda said that she would consult with the Parish Council office to see what availability there was for August or early September.

ACTIONS

1. Linda to type up and circulate draft questions related to Housing, Planning & Conservation
2. Graham to post the new question on the social media sites
3. Linda to cancel the meeting scheduled for 7th April
4. Linda to arrange copies of all draft questions for the next meeting
5. The Annual Parish Meeting Report to be amended and forwarded to the Clerk and to Annette
6. Linda to investigate possible dates for the Consultation Events
7. The Clerk to be requested to put photocopying of the questionnaire and use of St Peter's Rooms for the Consultation Events on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting

8. Gavin to write to Nottinghamshire County Councillor Reg Adair to request funding for distributing the questionnaire
9. Agenda items for the next meeting:
 - a. To start the review of draft questions
 - b. To progress the social media sites and review the feedback from the online questions
 - c. To agree dates for the Consultation Events subject to the Parish Council's approval
 - d. Next steps
 - e. Any other items which may arise

CLOSE

9.15pm