

Notes of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting, Thursday, 28 April, 17.00-18.00 OTC

Present: Liz Sanders, Michael Haley, Oliver Bird, Paul Dowse, Christopher Clark, Michael Hinman, Maureen Burns-Jones, Ann Lewis.

Apologies: David Salkeld, Frank Payne, John Nowell

Matters arising:

- Michael Haley opened the meeting with information about the RCC decision on our NP application, which is expected by the end of the week beginning May 2nd. RCC asked questions about Barleythorpe which seemed to suggest that they were seeking assurance about its inclusion within our boundary. In anticipation of the NP being approved, a press release will be drawn up in readiness.
- Liz informed us that the request for approval of costs of our independent website would be put before the next RCC meeting in May.
- On the 'Call for Sites' matter, Oliver had no further news but suggested that David Troy might talk to us about the sites within our boundary and the possible effects of these on our plan.
- Feedback from our event on April 9th continues to come in, with the Guides filling in questionnaires - and more to come from them.

Christopher explained that all the comments from the post-it notes are now on one document. Many were found to be matters which the NP cannot address and were considered more appropriate for the TC to deal with.

Oliver transformed the comments into visual format, starting with the Town Centre. He produced a very clear pie chart accompanied by three appropriate photographs. It was generally agreed that this format was ideal for the website and for any future presentations we have. Much discussion followed as to how we might divide our areas up for use in this format and it was finally decided that there would initially be three areas: 1. Town Centre, 2. Development (including Housing and Industry) and 3. Community Facilities. (Pie charts for other areas where there were very few comments were not possible.)

It was agreed that this was all helpful in showing we have worked on the feedback, that this is a beginning only and our current areas can be changed and developed as we proceed. More feedback can be incorporated as it comes in. Oliver, Christopher and Paul are to work further on this and photographs are to be selected to illustrate the pie charts. Liz thanked them for all they have done so far.

Liz added that she had communicated with Oakham School and a project for 11-13 year-olds is planned for 22nd June on 'Open Spaces' to target primary school parents. Students will create and hand out questionnaires to primary parents asking about open spaces. Catmose College students are also to be approached.

Working Group Event:

Invitations have been sent to people who expressed an interest in joining working groups in the questionnaires filled in on April 9th. An open evening is planned for Friday, May 13th at 7.00 in the foyer area of the Victoria Hall. All members of the SG, with name badges, need to be at the Victoria Hall for 18.00 to prepare for this event.

Liz stated that the evening is for engaging with those who may be selected and should be informal rather than intimidating. To that end, we will have informally arranged tables and chairs in our interest areas. A screen will be set up for presentation of material/website etc. Michael Haley will give a brief summary of what the NP is and Liz will talk about the role of the Steering Group. People will then move to WG areas where we hope to find out what their interests and areas of expertise are. A note should be made of these and a mini-questionnaire filled in. A careful selection process will later be carried out, rather in the way we ourselves were selected.

Liz is to advertise the event on the TC Facebook and Paul to do so on the NP website.

The offer of Tesco as a venue for our events was briefly discussed and dismissed. It was strongly felt that we need neutral territory - library, museum, castle are all possibilities.

Printing for Oliver's pie charts can be done in the TC office.

Next steps:

Speakers who can give us helpful information and guidance in steering our NP and forming working groups are required. Possibilities were discussed - someone from RCC? a legal expert? consultants? NP rep from town similar in size to Oakham? This needs thought.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 18th May at 16.00 in TC office

The meeting ended at 18.06.