

Stevington Neighbourhood Working Party (SNWP)

Minutes of meeting held 19th May, 2015

Present: Graham Read (GR); Andrew Lockwood (AL); Mary Morris (MM); Pat Olney (PO); Heather Eadie (HE); Linda Penney (LP).

Apologies: Roz Buchanan (RB); Sue Thornton (ST)

1. All agreed the Launch events went very well and there has been much positive feedback, both verbal and via written comments. Follow up actions were discussed to keep the community interested and involved. Sections of the village who seemed under-represented in feedback will be sent a letter, including the Launch brochure, to encourage comment. PO said that Pavenham have a champion in each road/section of housing who is responsible for delivering information, knocking on doors etc. All agree this would be useful and that Stevington champions will be identified initially from those who have already volunteered.

Action: GR to finalise letter

AL to provide further copies of brochure by Friday, 22 May and list of volunteers who could be champions by Tuesday, 9th June.

2. The original schedule of tasks and dates needs simplifying and amending

Action: GR

3. Next big task is developing the village questionnaire. Existing examples of good questionnaires will be used and adapted for Stevington. Clapham, Strumpshaw, Bletsoe, Blunham and Chelveston are useful.

Action: PO give GR copy of Clapham questionnaire. GR will circulate to rest of group.

4. Housing and housing development is single biggest concern in Neighbourhood Plans. It is categorised by:

- Ordinary/standard housing
- Affordable: housing provided for people with a link to the village, eg children leaving family home or parents of residents who wish to be closer to their family.
- Social Need: rented housing available to anybody on the Borough housing needs register and key workers; inhabitants do not need any previous link with village.

Kim Wilson (BBC liaison) is checking to confirm whether, if there is enough social needs provision in the area to meet Borough requirements, must Stevington also include provision. If social needs housing must be included, the Plan can include criteria for allocation to inhabitants, such as local links. The problems of lack of public transport and facilities were discussed. At present, rural buses are subsidised by the Borough but Hertfordshire have just withdrawn all transport subsidy.

The questionnaire will be designed to gather information on current housing, length of residency, family links etc. To qualify for social needs housing, residents need to meet Borough criteria and allocation is managed by BRCC. Details of where to get information and how to apply will be included in the questionnaire.

BBC are handing responsibility for generic Neighbourhood Plan work onto BRCC. Gemma at BRCC dealing with housing surveys and will be invited to attend next meeting to advise us and provide examples of housing surveys.

Action: GR to invite Gemma to meeting on 23rd June.

5. The draft mission statement will be amended, once feedback is fully analysed, to take account of what is particularly valued within the village. Feedback will also inform and direct where the Plan should focus.

6. Feedback comments are all typed up and categorised. Each Group member has been allocated categories to add responses:

GR: Map

AL: Welcome boards

HE: Photoboard and Infrastructure

MM: Heritage

PO: Environment

LP: Housing and Business

Action: AL circulate hyperlink to Comments section of OneDrive and standard comments for Group to use.

All Group: complete comments in individual categories by 9th June. At next Meeting, will identify volunteers who can assist with each category.

PO: send GR Oakley road assessment

GR: discuss Stevington road survey with Keith Lee

7. GR reviewed budget against grant received, which must be spent by end of September.

Dates of next meetings: Tuesday, 23rd June; Tuesday, 14th July and Tuesday, 1st September. All at GR house, 7.00pm