

Notes of Neighbourhood Planning Meeting 17 December, 18.45, 'Crossroads', Whittington

1. Welcome & Apologies.

Present

Gareth Hyde, Cllr. Julia Spencer, Cllr. Phil Taylor, Chris Jones. Clive Abbott, Francesca Jackson.

Apologies

Debbie Barnish,, Cllr.Thia Knowles, Cllr. John Cannon, Phil Jackson

2. Notes of meeting held 19 November & any matters arising that were not covered on the Agenda.

The Notes were proposed as a true record by Clive Abbott and seconded by Julia Spencer. There were no matters arising that were not addressed within the meeting's agenda.

3. Finance/Future Funding.

The Group were awaiting notification as to whether the grant application made through to Alan White (Staffs CC) had been successful.

The Report that had to be submitted to Locality to facilitate the release of the remaining £700 from the grant awarded had been issued to them.

Balance of funds in the account (excluding any further funding from the Parish Council) stood at £1400. It was understood that the cost of producing the Business Questionnaire would be £800 (invoice awaited) and forthcoming printing costs which were imminently to be invoiced amounted to £600.

4. Update on Questionnaire.

30% of the community or 334 responses had been received. The Consultants had already provided their interim report. It was agreed that publicity would be given through the various media to the high rate of return as well as a thank you to all those who took the time to provide their views.

The full report would comprise an attachment to future Minutes.

5. Focus Groups.

It was agreed that to better reflect their function the Groups would be known as Working rather than Focus Groups.

It was agreed that there was a need to define the generic and specific objectives of the Groups and the subjects they would cover, The results of the Questionnaire would be the major influencing factor in making this decision.

Volunteers from both the NP Group (Julia Spencer would prompt members of the Group) and the Community to sit on and be the lead for each Group would be sought once the way forward had been agreed at a future NP Group meeting (to be arranged). At this the basic working parameters would be determined. The aim was for Working Groups to be formed and meet for the first time early in 2015.

It was noted that 20-40 year olds were under-represented as respondents to the Questionnaire and discussion about how to better engage with this age group took place.

6. Design Consultants.

The meeting agreed that it was too early into the NP process to engage a Design Consultancy.

A general discussion about engaging with the known potential developers took place and it was agreed that the results of the Questionnaire could form a sound basis for this. One of the Working Groups might be tasked with taking this forward at the appropriate time.

When the Questionnaire was published developers would have access to it and it was agreed that at that point they should be invited to provide their development thoughts and proposals to the NP Group and follow this up with a presentation to the wider community.

7. Future Events.

The following events were canvassed for the future some or all being included in the next NP leaflet for distribution in February 2015:

Publicity about the questionnaire;
Developers to be individually invited to present to the NP Group;
Call for suggestions for/ offers of/ promotees for possible development sites;
Developer open event for the community (March 2015?).

8. Any other business.

The winner of the Questionnaire raffle was drawn at the meeting and the recipient contacted by the Chair of the Group. Their prize would be delivered to them in due course by the Chair who would seek their formal acknowledgement and receipt of same.

The Chair thanked and praised the Group and all those who had assisted the Group in enabling it to achieve so much in such a short period of time.

9. Date of next meeting.

21st January 2015, 19.45, 'Crossroads'.

*Subsequent to the meeting, the Group were notified that £1000 had been received from Staffordshire Count Council. The purpose go the Grant was to progress the Neighbourhood Plan.