

BECCLES AND PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OPERATIONAL GROUP MEETING

Notes from Meeting

Monday 9th January 2017

10am

Beccles Library

Present

Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw (Chair), Beccles Town Council

Jula Janney

Joseph Young, Local Area Co-ordinator – Beccles and Worlingham

Paul Fletcher, Chair of Beccles Society

Bob Aris, Beccles Society

John Sayer, Beccles Society

Christopher Scott, Ringsfield and Weston Parish Council

David Bennett, resident

Jo McCallum, Waveney District Council

David Goldstone, Frederick Road resident

Bruce Thompson, Frederick Road resident

Brenda Thompson, Frederick Road resident

Catherine Roberts, Gosford Heights resident

Josi Horne, interested in the future of young people.

Dorothy Goldstone, Frederick Road resident

Heather Sexton, local business owner, commitment to education

Andrea Downes, Beccles Town Council (Common Ward)

Joyce Hubbard, Darby Road resident

Penny Lindley, Frederick Road resident and Beccles Society member

Richard Stubbings, Beccles Town Council (Rigbourne Ward)

Hugh Taylor, Beccles Town Council (Common Ward)

Apologies

Graham Elliott, Beccles Town Councillor and WD Councillor

Michelle Golding

Susan Barnes

David Lindley

Item 2

The minutes of the last meeting Monday 28th November 2016 were approved.

It was decided (and voted for) that items 3 and 4 would be swapped round to suit the flow of the meeting.

Item 4

To receive the suggested constitution and approve suggested amendment

The Constitution/Terms of Reference were agreed.

Item 3

To elect new members of the Operational Group

E B-C reiterated that the plan is not Town Council led and is an exciting opportunity for new members. She explained it is a big process with lots of work over approximately 3 years. The report from Kessingland was that it was an arduous process but hugely positive.

An introduction took place around the table.

Penny Lindley asked for a brief description of what a Neighbourhood Plan is. Jo McCallum said it helps shape development and covers what the community wants.

Bob Aris, Heather Sexton, Josi Horne, Jula Janney and David Goldstone were voted on to the Committee.

David Bennett suggested however that there would be a second tier of people that were interested but didn't want to, or couldn't commit, to undertaking tasks.

It was reiterated, due to data protection, that the norm would be that all email addresses are displayed during correspondence so everyone is included in the conversation however, if anyone would prefer to be Blind Copied to let E B-C know.

Item 5

To select a Secretary and Treasurer

Committee roles were discussed and it was voted and agreed that Richard Stubbings become Treasurer and Graham Elliott to continue taking the minutes if he is willing.

Item 6

To receive, amend and comment on a poster and flier to advertise the Neighbourhood Plan Operational Group.

Hard copies of the flier were shown and the typo from meeting being held on last Friday to last Monday of the month was acknowledged. Heather Sexton suggested that the time of the meeting should be included. Jo McCallum suggested a link to the locality page (www.locality.org.uk). Jula Janney suggested that a blank space/box be included on the A4 design so they can be changed each month to be date specific. Discussion began over quotes and design. The majority preferred the black writing on white design.

E B-C suggested 5,000 x A5 be printed.

Item 7

To approve a budget for posters and fliers

Catherine Roberts asked where the funds would come from and E B-C advised there is an allocated budget from the Town Council.

E B-C suggested that we use a local printer over national to keep the money local.

Anglia Print were the only printer to respond to our enquiry and quoted the following:

1000 x A5 £92.00

5000 x A5 £193.00

Internet quotes x3

5000 x A5 £50.00

The feeling was that people were keen to use a local company, some concerns about the quality of an internet printer. E B-C felt that the decision was an ethical one rather than an issue of quality having used local and internet printers before. Richard Stubbings

suggested that the price difference was too high and as we were using tax payers money we needed to get good value.

Richard Stubbings recommended we don't go over 20% of the £50 quoted from the internet. Jula Janney suggested paying the town Council to print, E B-C to investigate. It was agreed to give E B-C a budget of £75 maximum.

Item 8

To consider setting up a sub-committee to focus on consulting with Young people which will report directly to the Operational Group

Helen Sexton and Josi Horne both showed an interest in being a part of the sub-committee and, following a unanimous vote, they will take the lead. Hugh Taylor suggested that Sam Kenward be involved as joint Youth Champion. It was agreed that Sam be invited.

Item 9

To receive a report on the data received so far in the first stage of consultation

Penny Lindley asked if there was a template for Neighbourhood Plan. It was explained that there isn't and doesn't need to be.

Bob Aris raised the issue of headings of points. He would like to add a few, Education (Adult Learning), Tourism, Future (massive sociological changes that will impact employment). Heather Sexton has already prepared some work for Education and will share with E B-C after the meeting. Jo McCallum approved.

E B-C discussed the reason for the tree that has been on display in the library for a month. It visually shows what bothers people (broad themes) and unearthed some really strong issues.

Joseph Young leaves (10.55)

Biggest pile of issues is Traffic, Roads and Cars, Speeding! Limiting speeds and Lorries using the town. Pavements (cracks) and Parking.

Penny Lindley leaves (11.00)

Second biggest issue is Leisure Facilities and Green Spaces, Indoor and Outdoor Leisure Facilities. Two big themes to delve into in the future. There will be detailed questionnaires later on.

The tree is being removed later this week from the library so as not to influence comments. It is felt different issues will be raised from different locations ie, Doctor's Surgery, Children's Centre etc. Richard Stubbings will approach the Surgery. Christopher Scott said that he sits on the Patient Group, Bob Aris suggested the Sea Scouts etc, Heather Sexton suggested St. Luke's and Richard Stubbings is attending a Thirst Cafe meeting this week and will speak to St Luke's then.

E B-C is trying to get out to all the Town Council Representative Groups and is waiting for email responses.

David Bennett asked how we provide feedback to the responders. Everything goes on the website, our Facebook page and via the email list. There was a suggestion that we use different meeting places e.g. Beccles Public Hall.

Paul Fletcher asked Hugh Taylor about the PCC meeting regarding enforcement of 20mph. Hugh Taylor explained that Suffolk Police rely on ACPO. Due to cuts there is a lack of resources and is leaning towards Community Speed Watch groups. He went on to explain that with regards to VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) there are huge rules e.g. minimum 50m line of sight (no driveways etc.).

Richard Stubbings raised a concern over the lack of mention of property development. There is a lot proposed for Beccles South and already there is a lack of amenities. Josi

Horne said that people are talking about it but are uncertain of where it may happen and that they perhaps focus on the immediate rather than the future. She suggested that a map be produced "showing the where". Jo McCallum suggested inviting Jack Green (Planner) to a meeting.

Jo McCallum discussed setting up sub groups and E B-C agreed saying that they will evolve over time as the responses come in.

Josi Horne also stressed that the Young Person sub committee is not just about reaching the young people but reaching the parents in the school playground.

David Bennett commented on the articles about the Southern Relief Road in the BBJ and the map being too small.

Paul Fletcher mentioned that at a previous Beccles Society meeting Desi Read spoke about the majority of respondents wanting a 15% increase in development, the Town Council wanting 10% and the Beccles Society wanting 12%. E B-C stressed again that at these meetings it is NOT about Town Council or Beccles Society, it is Community driven. Feedback says there is more sheltered and affordable housing needed. It's about what the Community needs when the development happens.

Even before the plan is finished, Larkfleet want to come and speak to us (February meeting). E B-C said that any potential developer should engage with us.

Christopher Scott said that it's important to education, the elderly and housing to consider health. He suggested that Dr Jean MacHeath (Halesworth) come and talk to us due to the closure of MIU etc.

Heather Sexton said that there is a huge amount of talk around the Beccles Community Facebook page on dog mess, particularly on Darby Road, Rigbourne Hill, Common Lane, Fair Close and Kemps Lane. E B-C advised to engage with the Town Clerk, WDC and Environmental Health.

Josi Horne enquired as to where to pass any information on from the consultations? Hugh Taylor recommended that people find out who/are directed to their local Town Councillors are and pass it on to them.

Dog mess was discussed and it was advised for people to take detailed descriptions of the owners, dogs, times and place to try and catch them.

Bob Aris said that dog mess, speeding and parking boils down to no-one enforcing the rules. Jo McCallum said it was difficult to enforce these incidents are there is a reluctance of witnesses to attend courts. Carlton Colville Councillors use a method of spraying a coloured circle around the mess left.

Josi Horne said it's a case of letting the Community have a voice and making them aware, and feel, that they are being listened to.

Richard Stubbings leaves 11.25.

Responsibility for parking and speeding has been taken away from the police.

Item 10

Any other business

Christopher Scott raised the point that there is a possibility that Beccles Hospital car park will start charging.

Bob Aris commented on the statistics showing such an ageing population and the massive gap/drop in 30 to 40 year olds and a slow down of births. The questionnaire can have a section targetting why? And although that age range are leaving it is likely the parents of these people may have remained. E B-C suggested the specified age group may stop renting and leave the area to enable buying their own property. Bob Aris stressed the need then for affordable housing.

Discussion began over reaching different target groups as a lack of childcare has not yet been highlighted. Heather Sexton suggested that it may be due to being influenced by the comments already on the tree. Josi Horne suggested an anonymous, sealed box to avoid this?

Item 11

To confirm the date of the next meeting

Monday 30th January 2017 @ 10am.

Beccles Library