



Easingwold and Villages Forum

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22nd July 2009 at 7.30pm at the Galtres Centre, Easingwold

Attendance

Frank Johnston-Banks (Chair); Peter Cole (Hambleton District Council); Bill Cross (Rural Action Yorkshire); Helen Lambert (Volunteer Centre, Easingwold); Simon Williamson (North Yorkshire Police); Christine Cookman (Stillington); Peter Davison (Husthwaite Parish Council); Bill Frost (Linton & Shipton Parish Councils); Neil Madden (Easingwold Town Council); Micky Johnson (Easingwold & Villages Over 50's Forum); Angela Instone (Easingwold & District Community Care Association); Glenda Turnbull (Newton on Ouse Parish Council); Karen Morris (Newton on Ouse Parish Council); Graham Jelley (Stillington Parish Council); Peter Appleby (Easingwold Lawn Tennis Club); Derek McLuckie (Huby Parish Council); Alan England (Sutton on the Forest Parish Council); Nicky Smith (Northallerton & District Voluntary Service Association); John Tanner-Smith (Easingwold Town Council); Brian Taylor (Easingwold Methodist Church); Shirley Shepherd (Easingwold Town Council) & Mike Rigby (Sutton on the Forest Parish Council.)

Apologies

Ken Hale; Gudrun Gaudian; Mollie Haigh; Ann Alderman & Emily Thomas.

Welcome

Frank welcomed Forum members and residents of Easingwold and the surrounding villages to the Forum's Annual General Meeting and introduced Bill Cross, Chief Executive of Rural Action Yorkshire and Helen Lambert, Volunteer Co-ordinator at the Volunteer Centre Easingwold, who gave the following presentations:

The Role of Rural Action Yorkshire (RAY)

Bill provided an overview of the organisation and explained that its role is to increase the capacity of rural communities whilst promoting a better understanding of rural issues. Previously the Yorkshire Rural Community Council RAY is an independent charity, working with local communities to improve the quality of life for people living and working in rural Yorkshire. The principle areas of activity include support for village halls, 'community resourcing', providing advice and guidance for community-led planning. For further details visit www.ruralyorkshire.org.uk

Volunteering Opportunities across Easingwold

Helen described the key functions of the organisation which include the brokerage and marketing of volunteering opportunities, the identification and development of good practice and 'policy response campaigning'. Volunteering opportunities across Easingwold and the surrounding villages include sport, archaeology, trusteeships and work with young people and the elderly. The organisation, which has 'Volunteering England' accreditation, is keen to overcome the negative perceptions of volunteering, provide support to new community groups and increase the quality and impact of volunteering opportunities. For further details visit: www.doit.org.uk

Frank thanked Bill and Helen for their presentations.

1. **Chair's Report**

Frank described the last 12 months in post as being both 'enjoyable and interesting' and outlined some of the community-led projects being undertaken across Easingwold and the surrounding villages. Recent successes include the opening of the Husthwaite Community Recreation Area, the refurbishment of the COZIE youth club and the purchase of sports equipment for both Huby Youth Club and the Linton on Ouse Out of School Club. Frank reminded partners of the purpose of the Group within the wider Local Strategic Partnership and thanked members for their support during the year. Frank outlined other activities undertaken over the year including meetings held at Crayke and Huby Village Halls and Beningbrough Hall, presentations to the Group from Emily Thomas (Broadacres Housing) and Noel Collings (Hambleton District Council) and the ongoing support from Nicky Smith who members agreed is an asset to the Group.

2. **Treasurer's Report**

Bill presented the Financial Statement for the year end and confirmed that 4 transactions had been completed over the last 12 months. The Group has £192 in reserves.

3. **Nomination and Election of Officers**

The following officers were nominated and duly elected:

Chair

Nomination: Frank Johnston-Banks

Proposed by Micky Johnson and seconded by Christine Cookman.

Vice Chair

Nomination: Mollie Hague

Proposed by Frank Johnston-Banks and seconded by Peter Davison

Treasurer

Nomination: Bill Frost

Proposed by Christine Cookman and seconded by Micky Johnson.

Secretary

Nomination: Peter Cole

Proposed by Shirley Shepherd and seconded by Christine Cookman.

4. **Any Other Business**

Easingwold One Stop Shop

Frank provided an update on the situation regarding the Easingwold One Stop Shop and reported that a small committee has been established to explore what support is available and whether possible venues exist for such a facility in Easingwold. It is understood that Seamus Breen is keen for the Forum to drive the project forward and that Caroline Patmore has been involved in internal discussions within NYCC. Concerns were expressed over the apparent reluctance of key partners to invest significant funding to ensure the project is sustainable. It was noted that Easingwold Town Council may have to relocate in 2010 and a decision has yet to be made as to whether the Police will have a presence in the town centre. It was suggested that given the complexity of the issues funding be sought to undertake a feasibility study and produce a business plan which includes those partners committed such a facility. Peter confirmed that the issue is to be discussed at the forthcoming elected member Area Forum to be held on Thursday 30th July.

Easingwold Tennis Club

Peter Appleby circulated a project proposal form outlining plans for improvements to the Tennis Club which includes an upgrade of the existing grass tennis courts to an all weather surface for wider community use and availability throughout the year, with an associated upgrade of the

perimeter fencing and club facilities. Members endorsed this proposal and agreed that it should be added to the Easingwold & Villages Community Plan.

Radcliffe Ings Playground

Peter circulated a project proposal form outlining plans to provide safe and stimulating play equipment for the children and young people of Linton on Ouse and surrounding area. The scheme is being managed by the Radcliffe Ings Playing Field Association. Members endorsed this proposal and agreed that it should be added to the Easingwold & Villages Community Plan.

Relate Counselling

Peter circulated a project proposal form from Joe McGuiness, Director of Relate York, outlining plans to deliver relationship counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationship through the local surgery and the hospital. Members endorsed this proposal and agreed that given that the service is being delivered at St. Monica's hospital it should be added to the Easingwold & Villages Community Plan.

Issues for Consideration at Future Meetings

It was suggested that the following be considered at future meetings:

- mobile phone coverage across Easingwold and the surrounding villages
- support for the Friday market in Easingwold
- funding for enhancements to the Memorial Park
- diversionary activities for young people in villages

Marketing & Publicity

It was suggested that the recently-produced Easingwold Area Group Guide be circulated along with a copy of the Easingwold Advertiser. **Action:** Peter to clarify costs of such an exercise with the Advertiser and HDC.

5. Closing Remarks

Bill thanked Frank and Peter on behalf of the Group for their work over last twelve months.

Chairman.....

Date.....