



EASINGWOLD AND VILLAGES FORUM

7.30pm on Wednesday 17th March 2010

The Council Chamber, The Galtres Centre, Easingwold

Minutes

Present

Frank Johnston-Banks (Chair); Cllr. Percy Featherstone; Allyson Moorey; Liz Page; Neil Madden; Peter Davison; Angela Instone; Gudrun Gaudian; Ruth Graves; Fred Hutchinson; PCSO Mike Crosthwaite; Betty Tyson; Mike Smith; Darren Howell; Ken Hale; Cllr. Christine Cookman; Alan England.

Apologies

Bill Frost; Ann Alderman; Jean Richardson; Mollie Haigh; Brian Taylor; Micky Johnson.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Frank introduced PCSO Mike Crosthwaite to the meeting representing North Yorkshire Police.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held Wednesday 27th January 2010

Agreed as a true record thereof.

3. Matters Arising

- **Easingwold Town Council:** Frank reported that he had yet to meet with Cllr. Shepherd to discuss those projects in the Easingwold & Villages Community Plan that had yet to be completed. It is hoped that discussions will take place prior to the next meeting Forum to be held in May.
- **Pedestrian Safety in Shipton by Beningbrough:** Frank confirmed that dialogue is ongoing between NYCC and Shipton Parish regarding the need for traffic calming measures and/or a crossing point outside the school.
- **Easingwold Memorial Park:** It is understood that work to replace play equipment in the park should be completed by the end of March 2010.

4. Diversionary Activities for Young People

Mike presented a summary of the work being undertaken to create a multi-agency partnership, the purpose of which is to provide activities for young people aged 11-16 and to tackle anti-social behaviour. The partnership includes the police, Broadacres Housing Association, the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership, local schools and COZIE. Volunteers are being sought to help support the activities being provided which includes flight simulator taster sessions at RAF Linton on Ouse. Plans are underway to host evening football sessions. Positive feedback has been received from young people and a similar initiative in operation in Northallerton has proved very

successful. Mike confirmed that young people can be referred to the scheme but that it is not only for those who have been brought to the attention of the police. Mike reported that the police have visited local schools to promote the initiative and that a RIDE educational programme is underway which seeks to promote responsible driving to new and young drivers. It was suggested that an article be submitted to the Easingwold Advertiser and that the Group is 'adopted' by the Forum as similar groups have been in Northallerton and Thirsk.

5. Leisure & Recreation Prioritisation List: Update

Members considered the Leisure & Recreation Prioritisation List and noted that plans to install new lighting and cinema equipment at the Galtres Centre were now complete and should be removed from the list. It was suggested that plans to develop the school sports hall be a key priority for the Forum and as such should receive a higher 'score'. It was noted however that such a project would require a significant sum of money and that it may distort the budget spend should the project receive all the funding available. Christine confirmed that a Sports Hall project is being undertaken by the Friends of Easingwold School and that work is underway to secure funding for the project. It was agreed that an update on leisure and recreation projects that may attract Section 106 developer contributions appear as a standing item on the agenda for future meetings.

Peter provided details of a Cycleways Group that has been established in Stokesley which is looking to develop four routes identified in a Sustrans Report commissioned by the Stokesley & Villages Community Regeneration Group in 2004. It was suggested that similar group be established in Easingwold to consider the development of routes across Easingwold, the provision of cycle lockers, cycle racks etc. **Action:** Any group members interested in setting up an Easingwold Cycleways Group to submit their details to Peter.

6. Any Other Business

▪ The Linton on Ouse Play Area

Fred provided details of the work being undertaken to create a community multi-use games area in Linton on Ouse. It is envisaged that the play facility will provide a safe environment for young people and the estimated project costs are approximately £100k. Draft plans have been drawn up, dangerous play equipment has been removed and funding to complete the project is being sought. It was noted that at present over 50% of the users of the current 'behind the wire' play facility are from civilian families. Members unanimously endorsed the project.

▪ Extension to the Burial Ground in Easingwold

In response to concerns about future plans to develop the Burial Ground in Easingwold Neil confirmed that further information would be made available to the public prior to the next meeting of Easingwold Town Council. It is understood that more burial plots are required and that suitable land has been identified in the LDF Allocation Document. It was suggested that a new site be considered to satisfy demand for plots from villages surrounding Easingwold.

▪ Community Projects for the Easingwold & Villages Forum

Members considered a report circulated prior to the meeting prepared by Alan which identifies 3 issues which could be addressed through a community-led approach:

- Mobile Phone 'Blackspots'
- Renewable Energy Generation
- Access to High Speed Broadband

Alan reported that an article had been printed in the Huby and Sutton on the Forest Parish Newsletters suggesting that 'bargaining strength' to address these issues would be greater if communities worked together. It was agreed that engagement with the local business community is necessary to ensure the success of any community-led initiatives. **Action:** Alan to write a letter to the Easingwold Advertiser raising awareness

of the Easingwold & Villages Forum and to determine the level of interest from the community for these issues.

Gudrun indicated that residents of Alne were exploring the use of renewable energy with a view to selling energy back to the national grid. It was suggested that other community building across Easingwold, including the Galtres Centre, consider initiatives to generate renewable energy. Ken reminded members that the U3A run workshops on climate change and the effects of global warming. Christine provided details of the Shadegreener government initiative which seeks to encourage the installation of domestic solar panels. For further details visit: <http://www.ashadegreener.co.uk/>

Peter reminded members about the event being held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre on Tuesday 13th April, the purpose of which is to consider community-led solutions to the inconsistency of broadband speeds across Hambleton. Guest speakers have been invited to attend from NYnet and Community Broadband initiatives in Robin Hoods Bay and Selby. The meeting will provide provided an insight into the work of NYnet, the current infrastructure in place and opportunities for NYnet to work with service providers to provide broadband to communities and businesses.

▪ **The Future of the Old Copperclay Facility, Easingwold**

In a report circulated prior to the meeting it was confirmed that security arrangements for the new facility will be the same as those in place for the existing facility. The report states that:

'Copperclay will be able to care for up to 18 adults eventually. The first development is for 8 clients. Old Copperclay has previously had approximately 21 clients so it is not envisaged that there would be any additional impact on the community. There will be no difference to the staffing ratios as the client groups is the same'.

Further questions regarding the development of the facility can be submitted to Paul Skilbeck, Locality Manager, on 01904 724172.

▪ **Alne Allotments**

Gudrun reported that an Alne Allotments Group had been established following the completion of the Alne Parish Plan in 2009. A request for suitable land had been published in the Parish Newsletter, though there was little response. A Constitution has been drafted and discussions are underway with Cheshire Homes with regards to possible land use. Support for the group had been given by Nicky Smith and Mark Haynes at HDC. Members unanimously endorsed the project proposal form submitted which outlined the plans for the Alne Allotment Group and it was agreed that the project be added to the Easingwold & Villages Community Plan.

▪ **Huby Play Park**

Concerns were expressed regarding recent incidents of anti-social behaviour at the play park. It is understood that the park is enclosed but is on a public right of way. **Action:** Peter to ask Geoff Lodge, the Hambleton Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator, to make contact with a representative from Huby and the police to address the issue.

▪ **Beningbrough Hall**

Liz reported that entry to Beningbrough Hall will be free on the weekend of the 20th/21st March as part of a national scheme to promote visits to National Trust properties.

7. Dates For Future Meetings

- Wednesday 19th May at Husthwaite Village Hall
- Wednesday 21st July (AGM) at the Galtres Centre, Easingwold

- Thursday 16th September (venue yet to be confirmed.)
- Thursday 25th November at the Galtres Centre, Easingwold