



EASINGWOLD AND VILLAGES FORUM

7.30pm on Wednesday 27th January 2010

Stillington Sports & Social Club

Minutes

Present

Frank Johnston-Banks (Chair); Betty Tyson; Alan England; Christine Cookman; Angela Instone; Brian Taylor; Peter Cole; Peter Davison; Fred Hutchinson; Paul Greenaway; Martin Parker; Phil Broomhead; Ken Hale; Alan England; Ann Alderman; Jean Richardson; Clare Fletcher & Allyson Moorey.

Apologies

Mollie Haigh; Bill Frost; Sgnt. Will Eastwood; Gudrun Gaudian; Cllr. Percy Featherstone; Micky Johnson; Cllr. Shirley Shepherd & Dick Hubbard.

1) Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Frank welcomed Paul Greenaway, Martin Parker and Phil Broomhead (NYCC Highways & Transportation) and John Matthews (Hambleton District Council) to the meeting. Frank also thanked Mollie Haigh for Chairing the last meeting of the Group held in November 2009.

) Minutes of last meeting held Wednesday 18th November 2009

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record thereof.

3) Matters Arising

- **The Easingwold & Villages Community Plan:** Frank has yet to meet with Shirley Shepherd to discuss how those Easingwold projects in the Community Plan can be progressed in partnership with Easingwold Town Council.
- **Shipton by Beningbrough:** Frank confirmed that he had received further correspondence from Jayne Charlton ay NYCC Highways regarding the need for traffic calming measures and/or a crossing point outside the school. Frank reported that half the population of Shipton by Beningbrough is under 16 years of age and that there is a 50/50 split between residents living on either side of the A19 running through the village. Frank felt that the response given as to why the need for traffic calming measures in the village are deemed a low priority is unsatisfactory. It was agreed that Frank & Mollie meet prior to the next meeting to discuss the way forward.
- **Easingwold Memorial Park:** it was reported that the issues over the equipment to be purchased for the Memorial park has been resolved and that work is to start shortly on the development. It is understood that the work to enhance the park and install new play equipment should be complete by the end of March 2010.
- **The Dawnay Outdoor Centre:** Peter confirmed that £4000 had been allocated from the

HDC Regional Pledge grant to support the Dawnay Outdoor Centre project which is seeking to develop an outdoor activity centre for use by the Scouts, schools and youth groups from across the region. It was noted that this money had been specifically ringfenced for the purchase of the land. A further £2000 from the Regional Pledge fund has been allocated to purchase new chairs and tables for Hushwaite Village Hall.

- **Huby Village Hall:** Peter reported that following a visit to Huby Village Hall work is underway with local residents to agree a way forward with regards to much-needed refurbishment of the existing building. A recent survey has indicated that the Memorial Hall has structural defects which require attention but that ambitious plans to replace the building with a new purpose built community facility are dependent on developer contributions for a proposed housing scheme in the village.

4) The Easingwold Service Centre Transportation Strategy

Phil Broomhead explained the context behind the Easingwold Service Centre Transportation Strategy, one of 28 being undertaken across North Yorkshire. Key stakeholders (including the Easingwold & Villages Community Forum) are being invited to identify four top priorities for improvements to the transport infrastructure across Easingwold and the surrounding villages that will help achieve the objectives of the Local Transport Plan 2. These priorities could include safe routes to schools, maintenance of footpaths or the installation of bus shelters and pedestrian crossings. A total of £500k will be made available to develop and implement those projects which are identified as a priority and which satisfy NYCC's criteria.

Once the initial consultation phase is complete further targeted consultation will be undertaken in areas affected by the proposed schemes. A report will then be presented to the NYCC Area Committee for consideration, adoption and implementation. Phil confirmed that the repair to potholes caused as a result of the bad weather could be proposed as a priority. In response to a question from Alan Phil also reported that NYCC is a consultee on the Local Development Framework and that a model will be produced to demonstrate changes to traffic flow as a result of proposed housing developments. Phil confirmed that a list of possible projects has already been compiled and that a separate budget exists for repairs to bridges caused by large and/or speeding vehicles. Both existing and new schemes will be judged against a list of criteria including access to services, congestion, safety and environmental impact.

Members expressed concerns over speeding traffic and the availability of speed monitoring equipment/speed matrix signs. Phil indicated that traffic speed data *is* available and is assessed by NYCC before any traffic calming measures are introduced. It is understood that Stillington Parish Council has recently commissioned a traffic survey in the village. It was suggested that a change to the traffic 'environment' can be an alternative to the introduction of speed bumps as a method of slowing down traffic.

5) The Easingwold & Villages Neighbourhood Profile

John Matthews presented a draft copy of the Area Profile for Easingwold and the surrounding villages and explained the rationale behind its publication. John explained that the document is seeking to identify local issues and specific needs and will help with both the review of the Easingwold & Villages Community Plan and with the allocation of resources to address 'hotspots'. John invited members to forward him details of any errors or omissions in the document and explained that it will evolve over time as more recent data becomes available. It is hoped that the final version will be available by the middle of March 2010. It was agreed that the document will provide a fundamental source document for funding applications. It was noted that the process by which the document will be update has yet to be agreed by the LSP.

The following comments were made regarding the draft document:

- The reasons why the document is being produced should be included in the introduction.
- Easingwold Town Council does *not* provide a bus service.
- The Profile does not acknowledge the support given by churches to the local community.
- The Profile does not make reference to local leisure facilities and National Trust/ English Heritage attractions.

Frank encouraged Group members to forward further comments to John either via email at john.matthews@hambleton.gov.uk or hard copy to ensure that the document both reflects the communities across Easingwold and also defines the needs and wants of those communities.

6) Diversionsary Activities for Young People

It was agreed that in Sgnt. Will Eastwood's absence this item be deferred until a future meeting.

7) Any Other Business:

- **Community-led projects across Easingwold:** Alan outlined three projects which members of the Forum may wish to develop and which may have both social and economic benefits to the local community:
 - Access to High Speed Broadband for both business and domestic users
 - Improvements to mobile phone signal strength across Easingwold
 - Initiatives to develop and create sources of renewable energy.

Peter confirmed that HDC had recently appointed Bryony Wilford as the new Sustainable Development Officer. It was noted that a third of the respondents to the Stillington Parish Plan had indicated a desire to reduce their energy consumption and consider renewable energy, 'green' architecture etc. Peter reported that local communities can establish their own Internet Service Provider (ISP) through the purchase of a service from Nynet. It is understood that such schemes are underway in Robin Hood's Bay, Cawood and on the North York Moors. For further details visit: www.nynet.co.uk/ifcg.php

Action: Peter to circulate a briefing paper prepared by Alan describing these three community-led projects in more detail with the minutes of the meeting.

- **Easingwold Calendar 2010:** Members congratulated Frank on the recently-produced Easingwold Calendar which includes a selection of Frank's photographs.
- **Easingwold eng-Age:** disappointment was expressed that literature promoting the recent Easingwold eng-Age event did not include an invitation to residents of the villages surrounding Easingwold.

8) Dates For Future Meetings:

- Wednesday 17th March (the Council Chamber, the Galtres Centre, Easingwold)
- Wednesday 19th May
- Wednesday 21st July (AGM)
- Thursday 16th September
- Thursday 25th November

The meeting concluded at 9.25pm.