



EASINGWOLD AND VILLAGES FORUM

7.30pm on Wednesday 11th March 2009

The Lounge, Galtres Centre, Easingwold

Minutes

Present

Frank Johnston-Banks (Chair); Bill Frost; Angela Instone; Brian Taylor; Ann Alderman; Mollie Hague; Elaine Smith; Harry Crew; Shirley Shepherd; Kathryn Chapman; Ray Barker; Christine Cookman; Tom Cunniffe; Percy Featherstone; Peter Cole.

Apologies

Betty Tyson; Peter Davison; Dick Hubbard; Emily Thomas; Gudrun Gaudian; Micky Johnson; Graham Jelley; Allyson Moorey & Alan England.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 14th January 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

2. Matters Arising

Easingwold One Stop Shop: Frank confirmed that he was waiting for a reply to a follow up letter sent to Seamus Breen following Seamus' attendance at an Easingwold Town Council meeting held in January. It was noted that a report outlining HDC's position will be presented at the forthcoming Easingwold Area Forum to be held on Thursday 26th March 2009. It was agreed that the Forum will continue to support proposals for a One Stop Shop in Easingwold. Shirley agreed to provide an update at the next Easingwold & Villages Forum meeting to be held in May.

Concerns were expressed over the relationship between the Area Group and the elected-member Area Forum. Peter circulated a copy of the Constitution which makes explicit the role of the Area Group:

'to assist the social, economic and environmental development of the area to the benefit of those who live and work there by supporting the implementation, reviewing and updating of the Easingwold and Villages Community Plan.'

To achieve this aim The Forum will:

- 1) Keep local people and organisations informed of the Plan and seek recommendations from them for projects to be included in it.
- 2) Publicise and encourage the take up of grant. Signpost to organisations who can provide information on grants available and who can help with applications to grant making bodies.
- 3) Provide links between local needs and planning authorities / grant making bodies.
- 4) Monitor progress on the implementation of the Plan.

Peter explained the role of the Elected Members Area Forum which is to *'give local people better access to their locally elected Members and to provide Elected Members with the opportunity to*

monitor and influence those local activities being led by the District Council.'

Easingwold Post Office: Mollie confirmed that David Bunch had been in contact to discuss the legal position regarding the installation of a ramp outside the Post Office but that further clarification is required. A letter received by Frank from Jayne Charlton indicated that land ownership remains an issue. **Action:** Frank to contact David Bunch to ensure that the issue is resolved.

Easingwold Tennis Club: Peter agreed to notify Nicky Smith of the Club's plans to resurface the courts.

3. Project Updates & Action Plan Review: Priorities for the Year Ahead

Peter circulated an amended Review document for consideration. It was agreed that Easingwold Town Council be invited to consider those projects in the Plan which it could help deliver.

Action: Peter to amend the document to reflect the progress made in Husthwaite and to add those activities being undertaken in Crayke. All members to forward Peter details of any progress made towards targets. Frank, Peter, Shirley and Brian to liaise regarding a meeting with Easingwold Town Council. Peter to invite a representative from Alne to the next meeting.

4. Rural Action Yorkshire (RAY)

Kathryn reported that following a restructuring of Rural Action Yorkshire funding to support development work will come to an end on 31st March 2009. RAY will continue to provide information, advice and guidance for community-led projects eg. the development of youth cafes across North Yorkshire and will continue to provide a voice for rural issues. The Community Buildings programme will continue as will plans to introduce user-friendly IT/video links in remote areas. Public transport in rural areas, support for local food producers and access to allotments will remain a priority. Kathryn circulated details of the Calor 'Villages of the Year' competition and encouraged members to enter.

5. Any Other Business:

▪ Communication

It was suggested that to raise the profile of the Group Peter make contact with the Easingwold Advertiser to ensure that meetings and activities are more widely reported to the local community.

▪ Traffic in Shipton by Beningbrough

Mollie reported that concerns have been raised expressing the need for a controlled crossing to ensure the safe passage of school children crossing the road. **Action:** Frank to write to Peter Sowray expressing these concerns over road safety, Mollie to identify the number of children crossing the road and Peter to notify the Safer Theme Group of the issue.

▪ Car Parking Opposite Easingwold Primary School

Tom noted that the ownership of the car park opposite the Primary School is unclear. It was suggested that the land has not been adopted by NYCC and may still be owned by Persimmons Housing. **Action:** Peter to contact Clive Thornton to ascertain ownership of the land prior to the Area Forum meeting being held on Thursday 26th March.

▪ Comprehensive Area Assessment: Self Evaluation Update

Peter reported that an LSP peer review is to be undertaken between 21st and 23rd April. This review is an inspection of how organisations and communities across the District are working in partnership to improve the quality of people's lives in Hambleton **Action:** Peter to circulate an invitation to members.

▪ Leader Funding for Community Projects

Peter presented an overview of Leader Funding which aims to tackle "economic underperformance and deprivation" in rural areas through a community economic development approach. Approximately £3.18 million will be made available over the next 5 years though an

agreement on the maximum amount that can be applied for has yet to be agreed. At present the funding available for the period 2009/10 is £632,000. Eligible parishes within the Easingwold catchment area:

- Crayke
- Hustwaite
- Oulston
- Coxwold
- Newburgh
- Whenby
- Brandsby-cum-Stearsby
- Yearsley
- Thornton-on-the-hill
- Dalby-cum-Skewsby
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It was agreed that Amy Thomas be invited to future meetings to provide the link between the Forum and the LEADER programme.

▪ **HDC Community Grants Scheme 2009/2010**

Peter confirmed that application forms are now available for the HDC Community Grant Scheme 2009/2010, the aim of which to help support those local projects and initiatives which appear in the LSP Community Plan. This year a total of £30,000 is available for projects across the District with grants ranging from a minimum of £500 to a maximum of £4000. The deadline for submissions is Thursday 30th April 2009.

▪ **Easingwold Area Forum: Thursday 26th March 2009**

Peter reminded members that the next meeting of the Area Forum is to be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 26th March at the Galtres Centre.

6. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Ray requested that funding opportunities available from Beningbrough Hall for community transport be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings:

- Wednesday 20th May: Beningbrough Hall (please use the Coach Entrance)
- Wednesday 22nd July (AGM): The Lounge, Galtres Centre Easingwold
- Tuesday 22nd September: Venue to be confirmed
- Wednesday 18th November: The Council Chamber, Galtres Centre, Easingwold