



## EASINGWOLD AND VILLAGES FORUM

7.30pm on Wednesday 20th May 2009

Beningbrough Hall, Beningbrough

### Minutes

#### Present

Frank Johnston-Banks (Chair); Angela Instone; Ann Alderman; Graham Jelley; Peter Davison; Gudrun Gaudian; Mike Rigby; Derek McLuckie; Dick Hubbard; Jean Richardson; Noel Collings; Micky Johnson; Allyson Moorey; Ray Barker; Mollie Hague; Clare Brooks & Peter Cole.

#### Apologies

Brian Taylor; Bill Frost; Ken Hale; Sarah Robinson; Betty Tyson; Christine Cookman & Percy Featherstone.

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#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Frank introduced Noel Collings, Hambleton District Council's Sustainable Development Officer.

#### 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 11th March 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

#### 3. Matters Arising

**Easingwold Post Office:** Land ownership outside the Post Office remains an issue. According to a letter received from Jayne Charlton as the land is in private ownership neither NYCC or HDC can enforce the installation of a ramp. **Action:** Frank to write to Post Office Ltd. asking for clarification as to why there is no ramp outside the Post Office. It was suggested that the letter be copied to Ann McIntosh MP.

**Action Plan Review:** It was agreed that a meeting be held with Frank, Brian Taylor and Shirley Shepherd to ensure that Easingwold Town Council are made aware of those Easingwold projects within the Community Plan which have yet to be completed. **Action:** Frank to contact Shirley to arrange a meeting.

**Traffic Calming Measures in Sipton by Beningbrough:** Frank confirmed that a letter had been sent to Peter Sowray expressing concerns over the safe passage of school children crossing the road. It is estimated that 52 young people cross the road outside the school. **Action:** Mollie to provide an update at the next meeting.

**Leader Funding:** Peter reported that the LEADER programme was launched on Tuesday 21st April. The programme 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. For further information please visit: [www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk](http://www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk)

#### **4. A Climate Change Strategy for Hambleton 2009-2014**

Noel presented an outline of HDC’s Climate Change Strategy and explained that the purpose of the Strategy is reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions being released within the District (at a National level the UK government has set its own target of 20% reduction in emissions from the 1990 base-line figure by 2010.) Noel described measures by which climate change can be addressed at a local level including the promotion of community allotments to reduce ‘food miles’, the installation of micro-renewable energy sources (small-scale wind turbines, ground source heat pumps etc.) and the use of energy meters to monitor domestic energy consumption. Noel reported that 15% of the energy used at Stone Cross comes from renewable sources and that a Green Travel Plan has been adopted by the Council. Noel confirmed that details of the strategy will be made available on the District Council’s website shortly.

Gudrun confirmed that the need for allotments has been identified as part of consultation for the writing of the Alne Parish Plan. It was suggested that the creation of ‘growing spaces’ may overcome the complexity of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 which states that:

(1) If the council of any borough, urban district, or parish are of opinion that there is a demand for allotments . . . in the borough, urban district, or parish, . . . the council shall provide a sufficient number of allotments, and shall let such allotments to persons . . . resident in the borough, district, or parish, and desiring to take the same.

(2) On a representation in writing to the council of any borough, urban district, or parish, by any six registered parliamentary electors or resident in the borough, urban district, or parish, that the circumstances of the borough, urban district, or parish are such that it is the duty of the council to take proceedings under this Part of this Act therein, the council shall take such representation into consideration.

(3) The Council of a borough, urban district, or parish may, for the purpose of providing allotments, by agreement purchase or take on lease land, whether situate within or without their borough, district, or parish.

It was agreed that NYCC should agree a joint ‘Climate Strategy’ which includes *all* local authorities and which recognises that York has a key role to play in reducing carbon emissions.

#### **5. Neighbourhood Profiles: Easingwold & Villages**

Peter presented the narrative from the Neighbourhood Profile of Easingwold and surrounding villages, a project undertaken by NYCC in partnership with HDC, the Police, the PCT and other members of the LSP. The Countywide Neighbourhood Profile is a database which uses data sets (obesity levels, income, age, deprivation indices etc.) to compare performance within the six wards in Easingwold and also across other areas within the District, the County and the UK. It was agreed that the profile provides a useful planning tool to help identify ‘hotspots’ and allocate resources where they are most needed.

#### **6. Community Transport: Beningbrough Hall**

Ray reminded members of the subsidised transport scheme at the Hall for organisations working to support those with disabilities across the Easingwold & York area. Funding for

the scheme has been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund and there is no admission fee for organised groups visiting the Hall. Disappointment was expressed at the relatively low take up to date and it was suggested that the scheme be more widely promoted through the Easingwold Volunteer Centre and the Easingwold & District Community Care Association. For further details about the scheme please contact Claire Fletcher, the Learning & Community Officer, on 01904 472002. Beningbrough Hall is to be used a pilot for a 'Go Local' scheme which seeks to develop and promote links within the local community.

## **7. Agenda Items for Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the following issues be discussed at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday 22nd September:

- ways in which the Group can support locals businesses during the economic downturn
- how the Group can lobby for improved mobile phone coverage across the Easingwold area.

## **8. Any Other Business:**

### **▪ Easingwold One Stop Shop**

Frank confirmed that following an email from Seamus Breen inviting the Forum to facilitate a meeting of 'solution finders' a committee, chaired by Robert Webb, has been established to move the project forward. The committee will include representation from NYCC and Easingwold Town Council. A report on proposals for the One Stop Shop will be presented at the next Easingwold Area Forum meeting to be held on Thursday 30th July.

### **▪ Funding Opportunities for Community Projects: The Regional Pledge**

Peter provided details of the 'Regional Pledge', Hambleton District Council's response to the current economic downturn. One of the key aspects of the pledge is a commitment from the Council to make additional grants available for community organisations to deliver small local community projects. As a result an additional £40,000 has been pumped into the Councils Community Grant scheme to help support community-led projects which have been identified in a Community Plan developed by the LSP Area Group or a Parish Plan. A further £10,000 has been made available through Community Grants for a range of schemes which seek to assist Parish Councils and voluntary groups provide safe, stimulating and physically challenging children's play areas. **Action:** members to submit ideas to Peter as to how this money can be allocated before the deadline of Tuesday 30th June 2009.

### **▪ Visit-easingwold.com: Non-accredited/Inspected Accommodation**

Following a discussion regarding the inclusion of non-accredited/inspected accommodation on the visit-easingwold.com website a unanimous agreement was reached that non-accredited/inspected accommodation will continue to be included on the site.

### **▪ AGM: Wednesday 22nd July**

Peter reminded members of the forthcoming AGM to be held in the Lounge at the Galtres Centre and invited members to suggest suitable speakers.

## **9. Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings:**

- **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**