



EASINGWOLD AND VILLAGES FORUM

7.30pm on Tuesday 22nd September 2009

Husthwaite Village Hall, Husthwaite

MINUTES

Present

Frank Johnston-Banks (Chair); Rosemary Taylor; Cameron Smith; Nicky Smith; Betty Tyson; Alan England; Maggie Farey; Percy Featherstone; Christine Cookman; Carol Fenwick; Angela Instone; Ray Barker; Brian Taylor & Dick Hubbard.

Apologies

Peter Davison; Derek McLuckie; Bill Frost; Allyson Moorey; Emily Thomas; Gudrun Gaudian; Mollie Haigh; Jean Richardson; Ken Hale & Mike Rigby.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Frank introduced Rosemary Taylor, the recently appointed Chair of the LSP, and thanked Cameron Smith on behalf of the Group for the site visit to the 'Fruits of Husthwaite' project held prior to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Wednesday 20th May 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

3. Matters Arising

Easingwold Post Office: Frank confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Post Office regarding the need for a ramp outside the Post Office in Easingwold. A reply has been received confirming that a lightweight metal ramp is to be purchased to allow disabled access. Christine thanked Frank on behalf of the Group for his help in resolving this issue.

Easingwold Town Council: Frank confirmed that a copy of the Community Plan has been submitted to the Town Council for consideration. **Action:** Frank to liaise with Cllr. Shirley Shepherd as to how the remaining Easingwold projects can be delivered.

Traffic Calming Measures in Shipton by Beningbrough: Frank has yet to receive a response from Jayne Charlton at NYC Highways as to plans to address speeding traffic near to the school in Shipton by Beningbrough.

Easingwold One Stop Shop: It was noted that this issue had been discussed at the recent Easingwold Area at which a report was presented by Maurice Cann. The report indicated that whilst the Council is keen to work with partners to look for permanent premises to date little progress has been made. It was agreed that further discussion regarding a One Stop Shop in Easingwold be led by the Area Forum.

4. Fruits Of Husthwaite

Cameron described the 3 phases of the project and explained the historical context behind the community initiative which seeks to encourage the planting of fruit trees around the village. The aim of the project is to establish a co-operative that will create a surplus through the sale of products to be re-invested in other village-based projects. Future plans include the restoration of a number of historic orchards in the village in partnership with the Thirsk Woodland Trust, Helmsley Walled Garden and the Northern Fruit Group. Cameron confirmed that LEADER funding had been secured to help develop the project and that a sustainable volunteer training programme is being developed. It is also anticipated that an annual festival will be held and that the fruit presses will be made available to other villages on 'Pressing Days'.

5. The Dawnay Outdoor Centre:

Nicky provided an overview of a proposal submitted by Gerard Tubb on behalf of the 1st Easingwold Scout Group to create a 4 acre outdoor centre and campsite with open grassland and established woodland. Plans include the inclusion of a commercial kitchen, toilets, showers and a dining/meeting room for use by local primary schools and supervised youth groups. The first phase of the 3 phase project is almost complete subject to ongoing negotiations with Easingwold Town Council regarding a 99 year lease (it is understood that the Town Council are awaiting a response from the Scouts & Guides with a draft lease for consideration.) The second phase includes the purchase of an additional 3 acres of land, whilst the 3rd phase will involve the construction of a new shower/toilet block. The total project cost is approximately £80k and it is hoped that the project will be completed sometime in 2010. Nicky confirmed that the plan has been identified as a priority in the Hambleton Play Plan. It was agreed that the project be included in the Easingwold Community Plan subject to the facility being made available to other community organisations. Peter suggested that the scheme might be eligible for Community Pledge funding. **Action:** Nicky to draft an application for Community Pledge funding and Peter to circulate the application to the Group for consideration before a decision as to whether the project is suitable is made.

6. Local Project Update:

- **Linton on Ouse/Radcliffe Ings Play Area:** The total cost of this project is approximately £70k and Nicky is working with the Group to secure funding to replace existing play equipment at Linton Woods.
- **Easingwold Memorial Park:** Nicky confirmed that Play Builders funding has been secured to develop the existing site for 8-13 year olds. Following a change in government guidelines regarding unsupervised provision further consultation work is to be undertaken with the local schools. It was noted that the Town Council has expressed concerns that the proposed play provision i.e. the inclusion of tunnels/mounds etc. is not suitable for the site. **Action:** Nicky to contact Cllr. Shirley Shepherd to discuss plans for the park and to address these concerns.
- **Raskelf Village Hall:** Nicky reported that £10k has been secured to undertake a renovation and refurbishment work at the Village Hall. This work is due to start soon.
- **Huby Sports Club:** Ongoing discussions are taking place to explore combining existing provision and committees. A plan to enhance the Sports Hall is being developed which will include the replacement of furniture and kitchen equipment at a cost of approximately £20k.

7. Any Other Business:

- **Rural Action Yorkshire:** Maggie Farey reminded members of a 2 year project being undertaken between Rural Action Yorkshire, Hambleton District Council and Ryedale District Council which seeks to improve community engagement in communities within

the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Workshops are being held in October to promote composting, waste recycling and raise awareness of funding opportunities for rural communities.

- **Agenda Items for Area Forum Meeting:** Peter invited members to forward questions to be raised at the next Easingwold Area Forum to Louise Davis at louise.davis@hambleton.gov.uk. The meeting is to be held at 7.00m at the Galtres Centre on Thursday 29th October.
- **LSP Board Representation:** It was agreed that this issue be discussed at the next meeting. Alan expressed an interest in representing the Easingwold & Villages Forum on the LSP Board.
- **Mobile Phone Coverage across Easingwold & Villages:** It was agreed that mobile phone coverage and access to Broadband is a key issue for discussion both by the Forum and the LSP as a whole and is one that requires backing from the business community. It was noted that mobile phone coverage is poor in Huby, Coxwold and Sutton on the Forrest. **Action:** Peter & Rosemary to follow this up at the next LSP Exec. meeting
- **Area Profiles:** Peter explained that further work is to be undertaken to develop an area profile to help target public sector funding on 'hotspots' of relative deprivation. Unlike the Places Survey that was based on public perceptions the Area Profile will rely of quantitative date to establish such hot spots and allow comparisons between areas to be made. **Action:** Peter to circulate a copy of the existing Easingwold & Villages Neighbourhood Profile for information.
- **From Ideas to Implementation: Wednesday 28th October 2009:** Peter reminded members of an event to be held at the Stone Cross Civic Centre, the aim of which is to showcase a range of community-led projects that have been completed from around the region. The event will also provide a wealth of information to assist with projects that are still to be delivered. Information will also be on display from the five Local Strategic Partnership Area Groups demonstrating the full spectrum of projects that have been delivered around the district.

Ray confirmed his decision to retire from Beningbrough Hall and to step down from the Forum. Frank thanked Ray on behalf of the group, and the community it seeks to represent, for his support over the years, in particular with the Tourism Sub Group. Members wished Ray well for the future.

8. Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings:

- Wednesday 18th November: 7.30pm Council Chamber, the Galtres Centre, Easingwold