



Easingwold and Villages Forum

Minutes

Wednesday 3rd September 2008
7.30pm at Crayke Village Hall

Present: Frank Johnston-Banks; Peter Davison; Christine Cookman; Alan England; Bill Frost; Margaret Price; Mollie Hague; Peter Cole; Maurice Cann; Betty Tyson; Ken Hale; Micky Johnson; Robert Webb; Cllr. Percy Featherstone & Cllr. Shirley Shepherd.

Apologies: Ian Hall; Brian Taylor; Gudrun Gaudian & Frances Padmore.

Welcome & Introductions

Frank introduced Maurice Cann, Head of Service (Development Management) Hambleton District Council.

1. Minutes and Matters Arising from meeting held 14th May 2008

The minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday the 14th May 2008 were agreed as a true record thereof. It was noted that the Easingwold Voluntary Car Scheme operates from the Galtres Centre (Mon-Fri.)

2. Matters Arising

▪ LDF Feedback

Peter reported that the LDF Feedback Report should be available in December 2008. **Action:** Peter to make a copy of this Report available to Group members once published.

▪ Springhill Court

Robert reported that the commercial aspect of Springhill Court was now running on a voluntary basis and encouraged members to support Restaurant 21. It was noted that the Over Fifties Forum has expressed concerns over the footpath between the town centre and Springhill Court and the potential hazard to pedestrians caused by traffic. **Action:** Peter to contact NYCC Highways to raise these concerns.

3. Easingwold One Stop Shop: Maurice Cann

Maurice provided an update on the situation regarding the proposals for an Easingwold One Stop Shop. The police have yet to make a decision over the future use of the Police House and it is anticipated that there will be no change to the current situation before March 2009. Hambleton District Council's lease expires at the end of February 2009. The Council will have a month-by-month extension to the lease until the new Police Authority's Estates Strategy is implemented.

Given the demise of Phase 2 of the Springhill Court Extra Care Housing development Maurice confirmed that both NYCCC and the District Council have expressed an interest in establishing a 'formal' presence in the Library. This may include a transfer of staff and an extension of Library opening hours, though a decision on the facilities available to local residents (eg. Council Tax and Broadacres rent payments) has yet to be made. The police are not yet involved in discussion over the shared use of the Library and the PCT are no longer looking to develop a facility in Easingwold. Maurice confirmed that both NYCC and HDC do

not have the resources to invest in a new build. It was agreed that a partnership solution be sought in order to avoid a fragmentation of services. It was also agreed that given Easingwold's unique position relative to the other market towns in the district the concept of a one stop shop should remain a priority for the Group.

Micky invited Forum members to attend an open meeting to be held at 10.30am on Friday 31st October at the Easingwold Methodist Hall. The meeting is being hosted by Better Government for Older People/The Over Fifties Forum and will provide local residents with the opportunity to ask questions of a panel of key stakeholders including NYCC, HDC and the North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust.

Action: Frank to write a letter on behalf of the Forum to Seamus Breen in support of the concept of a One Stop Shop and to encourage NYCC to explore a partnership approach to resolving this issue. All partners/organisations to write letters of support for a one stop shop to Robin Mair, Head of Access to Services at NYCC.

4. Community Safety

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

5. Project Updates & Action Plan Review

Peter circulated a copy of those projects in the Easingwold & Villages Community Plan which have yet to be started or are underway. It was agreed that at the next meeting the group identify a number of projects from the list of those yet to be started to ensure that progress is made towards targets in the Community Plan. **Action:** Peter to identify those projects which have been completed and circulate the details prior to the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th November 2008. Frank & Peter to draft a revised Community Plan with which to identify priority projects at the next meeting.

6. Recreation/Leisure Projects/Section 106

Peter circulated a copy of the list compiled by Lisa Wilson of those leisure and recreation projects which may attract Section 106 money, if and when it becomes available. Peter reminded the Group that whilst projects which appear on the list may not attract Section 106 money they may attract other sources of funding (Big Lottery, HDC Community Grants etc.) and as such it is important that all local leisure/recreation projects are included. **Action:** All partners to consider the list and forward details of projects which have yet to be included to Lisa Wilson, Lifestyles Manager, Hambleton District Council, on 01609 767149 or email: lisa.wilson@hambleton.gov.uk. Peter to invite Lisa to the next meeting to provide an update on Section 106 funding.

7. Any Other Business

Marton Parish: details of plans to develop a butterfly-friendly wildlife garden in the Churchyard were presented. It was suggested that contact be made with Noel Collings, the HDC Sustainable Development Officer, regarding funding for the scheme from the Council's Carbon Reduction Grant.

Cobbles: concerns were expressed over plans for a cobbled path in Easingwold and the implications this would have on wheelchair/pushchair/elderly pedestrian access. It was suggested that there may be some room for negotiation with NYCC. **Action:** Frank to write a letter to the Easingwold Town Clerk expressing these concerns prior to a meeting being held in Thirsk with NYCC later in the month.

Post Office Access: Mollie expressed concerns over disabled access to the Easingwold Post Office and the need for a ramp. It was suggested that there may be a legal requirement for commercial premises to provide disabled access. **Action:** Peter to ask David Brunch, the District Council's Disabled Access Officer, to contact Mollie to clarify the legal position and provide advice on how the problem can be resolved.

Vice-Chair Post: Bill Frost proposed that Mollie Haigh be elected Vice Chair of the Forum. This nomination was seconded by Cllr. Shirley Shepherd and Mollie was duly elected Vice Chair.

Road Signage: Ken sought views from Forum Members on the impact of the consultation undertaken in 2003 and whether the Group would support attempts to reverse the decision which has led to an increase in the number of road signs being erected. Ken suggested that CPRE host a meeting to establish whether grounds exist for the procedure to be challenged. It was noted that to overturn the decision would require an expensive and lengthy judicial review and that NYCC elected councillors are aware of the strength of feeling over this issue.

Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 26th November 2008: The Council Chamber, Galtres Centre, Easingwold

Wednesday 14th January 2009: Huby Village Hall (tbc)

Wednesday 11th March 2009: The Lounge, Galtres Centre Easingwold