



Northallerton and Villages Community Forum

Tuesday 24th November 2009

4.00pm – 6.00pm

Main Committee Room, Stone Cross Civic Centre, Northallerton

Minutes

Present: Sally Anderson (Chair); Stuart Isaac; Lesley Shaw; Audrey Pitchforth; Rosemary Taylor; Gloria Davies; Marjorie Stratford; Robert Carter; Mark Haynes; Peter Cole; Cllr. David Blades; Jack Dobson; Ken Blackwood; Rev. Michael Webster; Hazel Kirby; Barrie Meech & Bob Beaver.

Apologies: Rosemary Bullimore; Jacquie Boulton; Sgnt. Simon Wilson; John Sheehan; John Parkinson; Peter Rodgers & Adrienne Lucas.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Sally welcomed Rosemary Taylor, recently appointed Chair of the LSP, Jack Dobson and Audrey Pitchforth to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Tuesday 29th September 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

3. Matters Arising

It was noted that:

- a decision on the planning application for the proposed Bullamoor windfarm proposal had been deferred pending further consultation with the MoD.
- Sarah Atkins has been appointed Finance Officer for the ActDivertz Group and that agreement has been reached that funds to support activities for the Group can be held in the NVCF's account.
- a decision is expected in March 2010 on whether the bid for new cinema equipment to be used at the Hambleton Forum has been successful.
- Ken has yet to receive a reply from Chris Roberts at NYCC regarding transport issues.
- It was agreed that the minutes of future LSP Exec. meetings and quarterly LSP updates be circulated to the Group via email for information.
- Ken and John have liaised regarding posters and notice boards since the last meeting and the issue of co-ordinating publicity for local events on notice boards has been resolved.

4. Project Proposals

Members considered four project proposals for inclusion in the Northallerton & Villages Community Plan. It was noted that whilst there are no strict criteria for inclusion in the Plan the projects should benefit the *whole* community. It was suggested that the process by which projects are included in the Plan and the criteria for inclusion be agreed prior to the next meeting.

- **Mill Hill Foundation Play Area**

Jack provided an update on the Mill Hill Foundation Play Area which seeks to enhance external play and learning provision at the school in response to an OFSTED report. Planning permission has been granted and approximately £30k is required to complete the project. Jack confirmed that the play facility would be available out of normal school hours and supervised by staff.

There were no objections to the project being included in the Plan (eight voted in favour with one abstention from Cllr. Blades)

- **Multi-Sensory Studio at the Dales School**

This project is seeking equip a multi sensory studio for pupils at the Dales School between 2-19 years of age with multi-sensory and physical disabilities. To date £8k has been raised towards the target of £30k.

There were no objections to the project being included in the Plan (nine voted in favour.)

- **East Harlsey Village Hall**

This project involves the refurbishment of the backstage area of the Village Hall to create 2 dressing rooms and 1 make up room with heating and a water supply. Architects plans have been drafted and the total cost of the project is approximately £6k.

There were no objections to the project being included in the Plan (nine voted in favour.)

- **Northallerton Illuminations**

David presented a proposal to implement a replacement project for the Christmas illuminations to replace traditional incandescent lights with new LED light units. The replacement programme is due to start in the next financial year.

There were no objections to the project being included in the Plan (seven voted in favour with two abstentions from Cllr. Blades and Sally Anderson.)

5. Business Community Consultation: The Next Steps

Stuart confirmed that the business survey was underway and that 58 of the 200 local businesses had been visited to date. The feedback from those contacted had been generally positive and of the 58 visited 15 had provided lengthy responses. Stuart is to continue to collate responses and identify other businesses to be contacted. It was suggested that an 'Open Day' be held in the Town Hall sometime early in the New Year to continue the consultation process and to agree the next

steps. It was noted that no managers of charity shops had yet replied to the consultation and that no specific issues regarding business crime had yet been raised.

6. Northallerton Town Square: Draft Designs & Consultation

Mark confirmed that further consultation on the draft proposals for enhancement to the Town Square is to be held on the 3rd/4th December in Northallerton Town Hall. Negative and positive comments are welcomed, as are volunteers to help out on the day. A question was raised over the possible breach of a 1555 Royal Charter. It was suggested that a copy of the Charter is in the Borthwick Records Office in York. **Action:** Mark to follow up.

With regards to the Rutson Hospital Mark confirmed that work is ongoing with the PCT to agree a value for the premises and that the project is a priority for Yorkshire Forward. The NDVSA is currently undertaking a piece of work to establish the need for office space from other voluntary organisations.

Audrey suggested that given the lack of choice for the terminally ill in the local area that part of the new facility include a hospice. It was agreed that running costs for such a facility would be extremely high and that hospice provision would create an 'inappropriate mix' given that that the site may also include a youth centre and other multi-agency/voluntary provision. It was also agreed that the project is too advanced to include a hospice facility and that the PCT's priorities for end of life care must be considered along with any evidence of demand for such hospice provision.

Action: Rosemary agreed to raise the strategic issue of hospice provision across Hambleton and to clarify the PCT's End of Life Care Strategy at the next meeting of the LSP Healthy Theme Group and to feedback to Audrey any actions taken/decisions agreed.

7. Northallerton & Villages in Transition

Sally confirmed that the future priorities of the Group are to consider and promote:

- Local food production & gardening
- The generation of renewable energy
- Cycling & transport

The group is seeking to establish links with local schools, Age Concern, the NFU and Northallerton Blooming Together. An 'Open Space' event is to be held on Saturday 30th January at Northallerton Town Hall to consider local food production and ways in which Northallerton can reduce its reliance on food imported from both elsewhere in the country and abroad.

Peter confirmed that HDC is to undertake an audit of allotment provision across the district to assess the supply of, demand for and quality of allotments. It was questioned whether there is any route through the LDF to encourage local residents to generate renewable energy and thereby achieve the renewable energy threshold. Ken reported that members of Rotary were involved in establishing the allotment at Northallerton College which it is understood to be successful.

8. Project Update:

- Mark confirmed that the Evolution Business Centre is now complete and that a tenant is to take up occupancy of one of the office suites shortly.
- It was noted that in the Arup report regarding the economic impact of the Wensleydale Railway there is no mention of benefits to the commuter. It is understood that commuter provision remains an aspiration for the Wensleydale Railway but that staffing of the line remains an issue and huge levels of investment would be required.
- Ken confirmed that the Appleton Wiske Minibus is to be replaced following the MOT failure of the existing bus. It is anticipated that a replacement bus will be secured by the end of January 2010.
- David confirmed that £50k of Playbuilder funding has been secured to enhance the play facilities on the Applegarth park. A further £50k has been committed to the project from Northallerton Town Council.
- The Weaver's Pavilion in Brompton has been completed and the facilities are now available for rent. It was suggested that a future NVCF meeting or the AGM be held in the Pavilion.
- It was noted that the Brompton Heritage Partnership Group are seeking funds to install finger posts around the village. It was suggested that such public realm improvements could also include heritage trail interpretation panels.

9. Dates for Future Meetings

It was agreed that meetings in 2010 will continue to be held at 4pm at the Stone Cross Civic Centre. **Action:** Peter to circulate dates for future meetings once they are confirmed.