

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party Held on Tuesday 5th August, 2014 in 7pm in the Town Council Offices

Present: Councillors R Barnes – Chairman

R Hadley - Note taker	Mr R Allen
E Harvey	Mr A Harrison
C Ridler	Mr G Holiday
T Widdows	Mrs N Shields - Vice Chair
R Yeoman	Mrs C Tustin

In attendance: Mr N Doran, Mr K Francis and Mrs S Tagg - Foxley Tagg

1. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs J Roberts and A Crowe

Bob Barnes welcomed Mrs Christine Tustin as a new member of the NP WP.

Unanimous decision to accept her on to the group.

2. Meeting Secretary: discussion whether the role of note-taker for meetings should be a permanent or revolving role. No definitive position agreed. Meantime RH offered to take notes from the present meeting.

Meeting Agenda: Liz Harvey queried the agenda. She suggested it looked to be a proforma agenda and some key items were omitted e.g. Economic Development Summit and Public Consultation. Bob Barnes apologised citing pressure of work.

It was agreed to cover the following items under AOB:

- Progress Update and Review on the recent Consultation Exercise
- Consultation – next steps
- Overall Schedule for remainder of the NP process up to next May
- 'Plan B' for Ledbury
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3. Declarations of Interest: None declared.
4. Matters Arising: Membership of Group. RH requested that a definitive list of members of the group be circulated in advance of the next WP meeting.
5. Energy Group. Nina Shields explained that the intention was to set up a an Energy Information Shop, supported by Ben Boswell of HC. This would provide advice, support and information to local residents on their energy needs and promote sustainable energy provision. In its early stages, a report will be submitted to the next meeting.

6. Communications (Community Engagement) Group. A date for the sub-group will be arranged in due course.
7. Internal Communications Group. Griff Holiday, Bob Barnes and Chris Ridler had met and drawn up a set of guidelines, currently subject to review and comments by a small group, not at this stage the main WP. When agreed these would be circulated.
8. Foxley Tagg Report Back. Sally Tagg reported that the consultation had yielded useful data to feed into the next stage where vision and options for development could be brought forward. FT will produce a consultation summary before next WP meeting.

Liz Harvey asked what the next stages would be. It was agreed to convene an options development workshop where all findings and possibilities could be bounced around in a creative and informal way. Meeting was set for 7 September to brainstorm rough ideas with a second shaping meeting w/c 22 September (date to be determined).

Terry Widdows suggested everyone should have a look at Leominster's Draft NP, recently launched for consultation.

9. Grant Funding. Liz Harvey updated the group on progress of the Awards for All funding application the outcome of which should be end of September 2014.

Budget: a statement of income and expenditure was circulated and accepted. Rich Hadley requested clarification on the status of the purchase of display panels as part of the NP budget or as capital items for general LTC use.

10. AOB

Economic Summit – notes from meeting produced but not circulated due to agreement to keep discussions confidential to those who attended. However Bob Barnes read out the main action points. It was agreed that the land availability for employment was the main consideration for the NP. A small group will meet in the next two – three weeks to drill down further into the issues to map out an economic vision for the town which will be put out for comment among businesses, councils, and the NP group.

Extensive discussion about whether the NP WP was fit for purpose in its current form. It was agreed that Bob Barnes and Nina Shield would discuss ways of moving forward constructively, inviting suggestions from group members.

Progress and Focus: Mr Allen asked at what point the group would tackle in practical detail some of the important, possibly contentious, issues facing the town ie retail provision and location, housing, town centre sustainability etc. Group agreed the need to stimulate debate and discussion in the town on these topics, and not shy away from them because of possibly controversy.

Meeting closed at 9.20.