

Gerrards Cross Neighbourhood Plan

Steering Group Minutes Friday 16th June 2017

Present: Diane Holden, Daniel Johar, Hellen Orme, Tim Sansom, , R.Jane Chambers, Norman Holmes, Kirsty McCullagh, Alistair Cumming, Julia Cumming, Heather O'Regan, Brian O'Regan, Becky Hopkinson, Liz Bourne

Apologies: Sue Woollacott, Nicholas Moss, Peter Chapman, Rebecca Selfridge

Liz opened the meeting by saying that following the resignations of both joint- Chairs, she had taken a step back and decided that it would be a good idea to appoint a caretaker Chairman for six months while the group got to know one another and everyone's strengths and could work out who could best take us forward. Norman Holmes was happy to take on the caretaker role and the meeting agreed. It was emphasised that although Norman is a councillor this remained very much a community/resident-led project and his chairmanship was just to give the group time and space to gel together.

Norman thanked Liz, Becky and Diane for keeping communications going. There was then a period of open and honest discussion about what had happened. If people did not want to say to the group they could write their thoughts down on paper .

Two new members were introduced, Tim Sansom and Kirsty McCullough.

The Chair put forward 'rules of engagement' for the group to follow in order to get the very best from everyone in the group. They were agreed and are:

Hear all views - actively encourage all to contribute. (Some have little to say but very much to contribute)

Don't evaluate opinions 'out of hand' - consideration, respect and discussion for all input

Say what we feel - table any discontents, perceived mis-directions etc

The Meeting Decides - Those present decide.

Carry out tasks delegated and report back at next meeting

Communication between meetings is OK - if there is something to input - input it anytime!

(This will become easier when email, website established)

Meeting Dates

It was agreed that rather than always being on a Friday, the meeting dates should vary the days of the week. The date for the next meeting was set for Wednesday 12th July at 7pm. Diane will circulate a doodle poll to set the dates of subsequent meetings.

Action: Diane

Matters Arising:

TOWN

The Secretary confirmed that the railway bridge, cutting the town in two, was indeed the property of Network Rail and currently the Town Council was trying to get permission to put some flower troughs on there. It appears this is not easy.

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The Secretary had contacted South Bucks District Council and established the number of properties within each council tax band in Gerrards Cross. They are:

Council Tax Band	Number of Homes in Gerrards Cross
A	46
B	21
C	121
D	194
E	281
F	225
G	1613
H	680

The Secretary would check that the Vision V2 document contained all the additions/amendments as minuted. This would be forwarded to Liz/Becky who would give feedback.

Action: Diane

SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

Norman reported there is no effective Trader's Association in GX at the moment and they seem reluctant to come together as a group.

OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

Chairman advised that Gerrards Cross is excluded from any green belt development at the moment but that may not be the case in future. Liz confirmed that it is possible to put a green belt policy in the Neighbourhood Plan as long as it aligns with the Local Plan.

LEISURE, COMMUNITY AND HEALTH

Re: village pub, the Chairman advised it was possible to have a community pub and the HSBC building was mentioned.

Liz confirmed it would be reasonable to put a GP surgery in the plan. A lot of people in GX go to the surgery in Chalfont St Peter which is getting a lot of new housing which will increase demand there. It could be possible to use the Memorial Centre as a medical hub.

ASPIRATIONS

To add to the aspirations, that rubbish be collected from flats above shops. Cllr Orme advised that landlords won't pay for communal bins. The aspiration would be better infrastructure for people in rental properties.

Action:Diane

The Secretary advised she had accumulated some data on parking in GX and would share this with the group.

Action: Diane

LOGO

Helen had worked on a number of designs for the logo and was thanked for her efforts. Hellen would email the designs to the Secretary who would upload them to Google Docs so everyone could see them. There was no rush to get a logo and we will decide what to do at a later date.

Action: Hellen, Diane, All

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter needs constant attention so a website and facebook page would be sufficient, plus an email address for the website. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with NEXUS. We have a budget.

Action: Norman

AOB:

Diane reported on the response from the festival and together with Nick, Heather, Brian and Karen was thanked for the work on this event, which proved very successful as a first public engagement exercise.

The Secretary asked if we could use our 3 question survey on other groups. It was agreed this would be a good idea and we should compile a list of stakeholders. This is the list we created which is not definitive. The Town Council will have contacts for some of them. It was noted that a personal approach would get a better response than emailing.

Stakeholders

Residents	Businesses	Schools
Memorial Centre	Transport Operators	Sports Clubs
Brownies/Cubs	Newspapers	Celebrities
Churches	Womens' Institute	U3A
Commuters	Local Authorities	Town Council
Neighbouring Councils	Elder Care	Disabled/Cheshire Homes
Dog Walkers	Nurseries	Toddler Groups
MP	Police	Cinema users/promote on screen

Liz has a template we can use for approaching stakeholder groups.

These 3 questions can be asked anonymously but when we do a proper survey we will need to collect respondent data eg age and postcode so we can show we have consulted all sections of the community.

It was agreed to change the wording of the second questions to 'What **don't** you like about Gerrards Cross?' as the original wording produced responses that overlapped with question 3.

WHAT NEXT?

Liz advised us we need to plan a community engagement event, a whole day event, for after the summer. At the next meeting we should set a date for this and it should be end of September/beginning of October.

Jane had produced a press release and posted it on the Next Door website. Norman had written a piece to go out in The Voice.

Meeting ended 8.45pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 7pm