

Community Engagement Working Party

Meeting, Brunel Room

July 7th 2014

Minutes

Those in attendance: M. Inskip, S. Partington, R.Seymour, S. Smith and R.Wisdom, and for first item on the agenda B. Browne and B. Harker.

Apologies received: B. Collard, I. Dewar, B. Mayo, P. Mayo and T. Stoodley

The main purpose of the meeting was the first item on the agenda - to generate ideas for what the Aims and Objectives should be for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. The meeting was open to all Parish Councillors for this purpose.

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Aims and Objectives

To facilitate the discussion the meeting was provided with 6 main headings as to the topic areas the Aims and Objectives could fall under. These were:

- Biodiversity (Green Space)
- Housing
- Sport and Recreation
- Services
- Employment
- Transport/Roads

To ensure that the Aims the meeting came up with were appropriate for inclusion in a Neighbourhood Plan, the meeting was also provided with a section from 'Roadmap Guide to Neighbourhood Planning' produced by Locality. This provides the following guidance for formulating Aims and Objectives:

'In setting aims for the plan, it is vital to consider both aspiration and reality for how the area should be in say 15 years time (or whatever the period of the plan is), and the likely social, environmental and physical trends on the area over that period.

Based on the evidence, consultation feedback and knowledge of the area, a useful approach may be to consider what the neighbourhood's USP (unique selling point) is. This is about identifying those factors that make the area distinctive, attractive and a desirable place to live and work in. Assessment can also be made of the neighbourhood's unrealised potential, such as vacant historic or community buildings, which could be regenerated.

Aims may be designed to address the area's weaknesses, build on its strengths and deal with any other issues identified. A plan could also have an overall vision, if this is thought to be helpful. The vision and aims should be as clear and concise as possible as they will inform the more detailed parts of the plan.

Once the vision and aims have been developed, they should be publicised and subjected to further consultation.'

As an example of Aims included in a Neighbourhood Plan the meeting was also provided with those included by Exeter St James. These were as follows:

- Establish a clear vision for the ward that most people in the community support
- Define a local hub for St James
- Build on new planning rules to restrict HMO development and rebalance the community
- Encourage those types of development that met the needs of the community
- Manage the impacts of traffic and encourage sustainable transport
- Improve the natural and built environment of the ward
- Support and maintain community facilities and services within the ward

Having now appreciated the level and type of Aims required, the meeting then examined the Sutton Parish Plan 2008-2012 and also Sutton Vision which provide insight into the issues residents regard as the most important for the village.

The meeting was also reminded that a Neighbourhood Plan is about the use and development of land and that the Aims included must relate to this purpose.

The meeting then had a broad discussion about the village, discussing key issues in particular relating to housing, sport, employment, traffic and facilities.

Actions:

It was agreed that all those in attendance at the meeting would send to their ideas on what Aims should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan and projects resulting out of these to R. Wisdom. In doing this they should also consider what issues and concerns they want to address, often the flip side to the aims and objectives.

R. Wisdom to then consolidate these into a document for further consideration.

2. Forums.

At the previous meeting it was proposed that the Parish Council should hold a Forum to promote the availability of Grants from the Parish Council to organisations in the village. Having discussed this proposal the following reservations were put forward:

- The Parish Council finances are currently not set up to handle the likely demands on funds that such a forum would generate.
- It was questioned as to whether it is the role of the parish council to generate a demand for grant requests.
- It was agreed that if the parish council is approached for grants, the more appropriate response in many cases is for them to be provided with the contact details of an organisation that may well provide them with a grant.

3. Next Meeting

Date: Having agreed that the CEWP would hold its monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month, it was pointed out that due to holidays this would not be possible for the next two months. It was therefore agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday August 5th and that a decision regarding a date in September would be agreed upon at a later stage.

Agenda: To discuss the submission to the local authority of the proposed neighbourhood area.

Next Meeting: Tuesday August 5th, 7.30pm, Brunel Room