

## **Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan Group**

### **Notes of meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 4.00 pm in the Mayor's Parlour.**

<b>Present:</b> resident	Rachel Caldwell (RC)	Shaftesbury Civic Society/ Shaftesbury
Resident	Mick Hicks (MH)	Shaftesbury Town Council
	David Kerswell (DK)	Shaftesbury Civic Society/Shaftesbury
resident	Sue Minshaw (SM)	Shaftesbury resident IN THE CHAIR
	John Mitchell (JM)	Melbury Abbas & Cann
	John Parker (JP)	Shaftesbury resident
	Jan Scott (JS)	Shaftesbury Civic Society/Shaftesbury
	Janet Swiss (JSw)	Stour Row
	Richard Tippins (RT)	Shaftesbury Town Council

1. Apologies had been received from Tim Cook, Clare Pestell and Brian Hughes.
2. Notes from last meeting - Agreed.
3. Matters arising  
JS expressed the view that notes should be marked to distinguish ?????  
RC had written to Angela King of Shaftesbury Tree Group. The group's views are already in our files.
4. Semley and Sedgehill - proposed exhibition at Village Hall  
RC reported that she had sent an e-mail to Joe Duthie and Gerald Purdue asking for suggestions for a September visit, as agreed at the last meeting. The answer indicated that they required sufficient time in order to publicise the event locally. She will write again, asking them to suggest date(s) which they would consider convenient.
5. Finance and Strategy for the Future  
SM said she is still waiting for a response from DCA. TC has sent an e-mail to enquire whether the council had received any notification of funding. RT asked if there is any record of e-mails.  
SM reminded members that she and LD (Lester Dibben) had met with Trevor Warwick at NDDC in December 2012. At that time she was told that application for funds had to come from the Town Council.  
As a result of conversations at the last meeting, RC had visited Louise Plumridge in the Task Force office. She had been given the papers on the 'Locality' scheme which she had passed to SM, and was advised to contact Sarah Jennings at NDDC. JS asked MH to progress the 'Locality' papers through STC as a priority. It was agreed that LD has had knowledge of 'Locality'. SM was worried that delay may cause us to lose this source of funding, as the present offer was launched in April 2013.  
JS asked if STC have been applying to DCA, RC will look for the forms sent by DCA and printed off earlier.  
RC reminded members that TC was appointed as Town Council representative for our meetings and had agreed to work on the web site.  
Considerable discussion followed - all members taking part. JS considered we need help of a stronger body, i.e. the Task Force. JP answered that they would be willing to do this, but we still need to have the support of STC. JS said we need expert advice as well as money, which JP assured her always happens.  
JSw made comparison with Sturminster Newton where they have a town plan and are proceeding step by step. JP offered more support if it is needed. Up to now it

has been assumed that STC will act, but in the circumstances he will obtain help from the Task Force.

JS was happy that we had made a lot of progress regarding to consultations. Now we appear to be at a standstill.

JP gave useful advice. He suggested an overall strategy; the end result should take into account the character of the town and its constrictions. This will then be taken to NDDC. We have done a great amount of work and now should employ professionals – i.e. landscape and urban planners. We need to write a brief, maintaining our character and then conduct further consultation.

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JS claimed that we need greater coverage leading to a questionnaire ranking importance. The brief is most important.

JP gave an opinion on the Eastern Development. There are not enough walkways, cycle paths etc. We must produce a first draft of the brief and tell the professionals what is wanted.

Individual views were expressed:

RT said Section 106 money is coming through and the public need to know what it is spent on.

JSw : everyone wants a dream. Hers is for the four North Dorset towns to be centres of excellence, supporting villages, retaining the young people. In this, she hopes for help from Rotarians. She would make the slopes into community orchards which don't block the views.

JP picked out Shaftesbury as being an elevated town capable of porous movement. He considered 'The View of the Hill' made statements which were not followed up.

RT considered the document drawn up by Much Wenlock to be a good example of a neighbourhood plan.

#### 6. The Town Council's lack of support

Remarks recorded above show that progress is being held up through the Town Council's inability to provide support.

JM was looking for 100% backing from the Council. We should approach other organisations.

Web site. MH had agreed to help. He said he had found TC's contribution but had been unable to proceed further. JS stressed importance of having results put on the site.

RT considered that STC should work to get the 'Locality' application going. JS agreed and others joined in, agreeing that it was thought our STC members were doing this. DK repeated this view.

SM told the meeting that she 'will keep at it.'

#### 7. Any other business

SM : at the next meeting we should explore answers to financing and get someone else's plan.

#### 8. Reminder of next meeting:

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October (as notified earlier) at 4.00 pm in the Mayor's Parlour.

The meeting closed at 5.28 pm.