

Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan Group
Notes of meeting on Wednesday 18 July 2012

Present: Rachel Caldwell (RC) Shaftesbury Civic Society/ Shaftesbury resident
Lester Dibben (LD) Shaftesbury Town Council (for a short time)
Joseph Duthie (JD) Semley and Sedgehill resident
Jacqueline Flexney-Briscoe (JF-B) Town Team
Mick Hicks (MH) Shaftesbury Town Council
David Kerswell (DK) Shaftesbury Civic Society
Sue Minshaw (SM) Shaftesbury resident IN THE CHAIR
John Parker (JP) Shaftesbury resident (for a short time)
Heather Sanger (HS) Shaftesbury Youth Club/Shaftesbury resident
Jan Scott (JS) Shaftesbury Civic Society/Shaftesbury resident

Update: Joseph Duthie, Jacqueline Flexney-Briscoe, David Kerswell and John Parker were welcomed.

1. Apologies had been received from Tim Cook (TC), Keith Hodder (KH), Brenda Innes (BI) and Mervyn Jeffery (MJ).
2. Notes of last meeting held on 6th June These were approved. Proposed by JS, seconded by HS and agreed by members. Signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

Infrastructure Map - SM commented that some information was missing due to left margin being cut off. RC will leave a note for Claire Commons asking for this to be rectified.

Town Team - JS asked J F-B for copy of Town Team questionnaire which had been printed in the BVM. LD asked for copy of the results as well. SM suggested these documents could be studied by a small group.

'Have a Say' days - J F-B said over 2000 comments had been processed. In addition, comments had been obtained through coach visitors, schools and Yeovil College. It was suggested that specific issues might be analysed to fit with the Task Force themes.

LD reported that villages are holding meetings and making comments. JS said she was expecting a memory stick from TC. She would welcome the information available in this form. (LD then left the meeting).

JS had undertaken to carry out research, as a result of which she will create relevant sub-headings. J F-B will have access. JP applauded this as a means of leading to consultation. (At this point JP had to leave, but told the meeting he is happy to continue membership of the group).

Finance - Information from TC is still awaited. RC will contact him to make enquiries regarding follow up of STC letter reported at last meeting.

4. Report on Membership

RC had received a copy of the list of those who recorded their interest at the end of the STC meeting on 16th February. This contained two names in addition to those presently in the group. HS claimed there were more people who had registered. SM agreed to 'phone those we know about and contact the Town Clerk regarding any others.

MH gave an estimate of the costs of a Neighbourhood Plan, in the range £7,000 - £70,000. He suggested the name of the group should be changed to Neighbourhood Development Plan Group.

JD gave the view that a plan should be formulated for Shaftesbury and then passed to the environs for their views.

RC added that she had spoken with Edwin Rayner of Melbury Abbas who may be indicated that he would be interested in knowing more; he also gave the names of two colleagues.

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It was suggested that Mr Rayner could be contacted at a future date. JS considered we should decide on actions and then ask the outlanders. MH added that the choice of area will be chosen by those in the centre; some smaller villages could set up their own. It is the people who will make the eventual decisions. JD outlined issues of concern to Shaftesbury as being Health, Education and Law and Order. These need to be discussed so that an outline plan can be assembled. At this point the plan would be presented to villages.

DK emphasised that the membership intends to work on this plan. HS wants all the best for the youth club.

5. Update of the activities of the Town Team

SM invited J F-B to speak to the meeting.

J F-B said she took on chairmanship of the Chamber of Commerce in April. Prior to this she had attended a seminar for the Mary Portas High Street regeneration scheme. Discussion had taken place at Chamber meetings and when a second round of Portas was announced the decision was made to work towards submitting a bid for Shaftesbury. Initially a small group of 15 people was formed (Shaftesbury School, Yeovil College, Town councillors, Philip Proctor, reps. of retail, business, DCC and the Church). This had increased to 44 interested parties on the e-mail list. Weekly meetings have taken place with an average of 13 - 15 attending. The bid had to be sent in by 30th June, which necessitated speedy action.

J F-B said that the Portas bid needed to improve footfall in the High Street and boost the economic health of the town. Eight ideas were put into the bid and additional ideas put into an action plan. This has been graded into priorities: short, medium and long term. Signage is considered important. Public consultation has taken place. The Team has started to study the changes which have been requested. People would like longer shopping hours.

6. Proposed Public Meeting

It was agreed to delay this until it is possible to study the research data. Next meeting we should concentrate on (say) six issues.

7. Any other business

HS considered there was a lack of information from 'the powers that be'. She had been talking to MJ who is ploughing through information which has been released. She considered that the present documentation should be cut down, especially in view of the fact that there appears to be no sense of direction yet.

JS gave views on possible press release. There was a lack of response from the first one in the BVM; she thought we should delay issuing another one until the next meeting.

J F-B asked whether the Town Team fits into this group. The problem in Shaftesbury is lack of communication between different groups. The Town Team has led to them talking together. She was told that whatever the Town Team has done will contribute to the overall plan. She offered to set up a spread sheet/précis to show where the Town Team has got to.

JD announced that he was talking to the new Chairman of Semley & Sedgehill Parish Council who is working on a plan. They should include a question on "How do you expect Shaftesbury to develop?" The response must be proactive.

SM considered Shaftesbury is anxious to overcome things which have been promised and not delivered. J F-B said: change the way you do it and change will result.

DK had concerns about the makeup of the committee. Attendance at a public meeting should be representative of the **whole** community.

8. Date and time of next meeting 15th August 2012 at 6.30 pm.
Subsequently changed to **Wednesday 19th September** due to difficulties regarding holiday dates, etc..