

Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan Group

Notes of a Workshop held on Thursday 31st October 2013 at 4.00 pm in the Mayor's Parlour.

Present: Rachel Caldwell (RC) Shaftesbury Civic Society/
Shaftesbury resident
Mick Hicks (MH) Shaftesbury Town Council
Brenda Innes (BI) Shaftesbury Civic Society/ Shaftesbury
resident
Sue Minshaw (SM) Shaftesbury resident IN THE CHAIR
Richard Tippins (RT) Shaftesbury Town Council
In attendance Bernard Ede (BE) Shaftesbury resident

1. Apologies had been received from David Kerswell, John Parker, Brian Hughes, John Mitchell, Clare Pestell and later on Jan Scott.
2. 'Locality' bid
RS told the meeting that the bid had been sent to 'Locality'. He had been anxious to ascertain whether our application was suitable and had telephoned them. He talked with Hannah who told him she had checked the bid and considered it looked good. The papers have been sent to DCLG and a decision can be expected in 3 weeks' time.
Hannah had provided advice. She considered we should have two days' consultancy for project planning and 2 days' site allocation.
£2000 is the expected cost for marketing, printing and promotion.
3. Research Documents
RS introduced the NDDC New Plan for North Dorset as the latest document for development of Shaftesbury. B Ede considered there are areas which could be marked up for development - i.e. land to the N.W. and to the east.
We should identify leisure areas and links for possible cycle paths.
4. Future actions
We have to abide by NDDC housing quotas. Members were informed that we should have a member of NDDC allocated to us. SM suggested Sarah Jennings and RT will make enquiries. We have been told that North Dorset is required to pay for the referendum.
'Locality' is a government body and their consultants have expertise. Their services need to be included in our application for cash. The money is held by STC. RT will make sure that funds are accounted for accurately. He has been told that where there is a town council they should officially drive the Plan. In our case all that STC has done is to send out the initial letter to call the first meeting. RT agreed - we are like a sub-committee working on behalf of STC. SM asked that our activity should be reported regularly to STC; RT will do this and give reports to Full Council.
The consultant who is helping us will set us on the right path.
SM hoped we could set up a draft plan with a view to drawing up a consulting/ questionnaire.

BE named other towns which had produced good examples of a Neighbourhood Plan. These were Exeter and Malmesbury, which could be viewed on the web. RT added that Exeter is the most extensive and *everything* is in it. Also, it was noted that rearrangements have to be evidence based. Land allocation is important. Community allocation can put forward sites for new facilities funded by, say S106 monies.

RT reported that the next Persimmon phases will be selling at average 20% social housing which should bring the overall figure for the development down to 50%. The whole area is badly planned.

Examples of evidence base: Enquiry by Design 2003, View from the Hill 2005 and New Plan for North Dorset. The 'Locality' web site has a link to help with this.

RT went through the Work Sheet and will circulate it in order to inform all members. He had also gone through a number of documents including census statistics.

SM reminded members that she and Lester had talked at a cross-county meeting.

BE asked if Dorset Highways had carried out work - MH answered that it is in the Dropbox.

5. Aspirations

Several suggestions came forward in respect to improvements in the town :

Multi-storey car park (on the German plan)

Residents of Melbury are interested in the future of the bypass.

A shuttle bus to go round the eastern residential areas.

Swimming pool, Fitness suite.

Cockrams to be used for leisure and youth. Use Dropbox for all these.

The Open Spaces group have more ambitious ideas: Pathway from Castle Hill to go past the Castle site. Create a Heritage way - Lottery funded - which would be a great tourist attraction.

BE pointed out that Green infrastructure is included in the Exeter plan, with national and international references. Framework documents should be incorporated.

MH considered that the 1968 Town Plan could still be applicable.

RT spoke on the membership of our team. We should have some young people. Suggestions: Simon Rutter, someone from Chamber of Commerce and someone from Toby's.

Employment : concern expressed about areas of employment land not being taken up.

Shaftesbury's main attributes? Heritage, Art and Tourism?

6. Next steps

First meeting after we hear from 'Locality' should provide training.

Then Evidence/Project plan.

It was emphasised that *attendance* is most important. Ideally there should be 10-12 regular attendees plus skilled helpers.

The two Consultation documents need to be brought together.

Date of next meeting

As indicated above, the date will be advised when we have news of the 'Locality' result.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm.