

WERRINGTON AREA FORUM

MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19th November 2018 AT WERRINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE NOTES FROM THE MEETING

PRESENT: 11 members of Werrington Neighbourhood Council, 11 other
Werrington Residents and Cllr John Fox, Cllr Judy Fox, Cllr Steve Lane
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Roger Proudfoot
MEETING OPENED: 7.05pm

1. Vince Moon as Chair of Werrington Neighbourhood Council welcomed everyone for coming to hear about Werrington's Neighbourhood Plan.
2. Sally Weald gave an overview of the current position of the Forum. She explained that most Neighbourhood Plans are evolved by Parish Councils but, as Werrington doesn't have a Council, then a Neighbourhood Forum has to be formed and approved by Peterborough City Council. She advised that the first step was to form a Neighbourhood Area, which has been approved. The Forum has the minimum number of members, the application has been approved and will be out for Consultation on the City Council's website.
3. Mark Deas of ACRE was then introduced. He explained that he was a consultant who worked with groups to develop their Neighbourhood Plans. He said that he wasn't here to persuade actions one way or the other. He went through the following
 - The function of a Neighbourhood Plan was explained but he warned that this just related to planning matters and there would be many issues that couldn't be addressed in this way eg traffic. Sally confirmed that this was a project for a joint Neighbourhood Plan and Community Action Plan so an action plan would be picking up many issues. It is intended to bring people with similar concerns to bring about solutions eg Neighbourhood Watch, Speedwatch projects.
 - There are many planning reasons to form a Plan and the amount of effort needs to be considered alongside the benefits.
 - Attention was drawn to Peterborough's Local Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan would sit alongside this and would have to be considered when planning applications were reviewed
 - The stages of the Plan: Consultation, writing, policies, examination, ballot, adoption. This could take years to reach a conclusion
 - There is a £9,000 pot of money available for 'Werrington' for the next 2 years. This has to be applied for. Whilst it seems a lot of money, it will soon be spent eg ACRE is cheap at £400 a day. It is important that a consultant is employed only when strictly essential. There could be a lot of skilled and supportive people in the Community willing to come forward. Sally agreed that the £9,000 would not be enough to get a plan in place and further sponsorship and lottery funding needs to be considered.
 - Consultation is the first important step. People cannot be expected to come to you and community groups need to be approached. Need to go where the people are. Sally agreed that a key date for the Forum is Carnival at the end of June. She added that this is not the first attempt at a plan as a lot of work was undertaken in 2011 before the new regulations then come in and funding ran out. So some dated community outcomes are to hand. Also ongoing consultative work has been undertaken at the Neighbourhood Council's drop in events.
4. QUESTIONS ASKED:

What would happen if an adjoining community such as Gunthorpe wanted to designate an area and wanted to cover part of the same area? A certain location can only be in one area and so couldn't be part of a new designated area. But a Forum and a plan would only exist for 5 years so at the end of that time, all the area allocation could be reviewed.

What area would be covered by the plan? The area covers the traditional area of Werrington although is driven by the political boundaries

Can extra protection be afforded to the conservation area and prevent any further density infill. National regulations already offer substantial protection

Encouragement is given to involve Young People but the benefits for Young People are not apparent. Generally it was seen that young people bring interesting views into the consultation. These outcomes can be included in an action plan. Sally said that contact had already been made with Ken Stimson and engagement would be made with them at the consultation stage.

Is a Parish Council being formed? Sally advised that the WNC has funding for one more year. It is the intention to use this opportunity to illustrate the importance of local representation and the possibility of a future Community Council.

5. Mark was thanked for all the information provided and he left the meeting.
6. The meeting then agreed the following:
 - To progress a Community Neighbourhood Plan and Community Action Plan
 - To approach ACRE to provide an initial support package to support and action plan and to support the initial stages of this including the consultation
 - To approach Locality for funding for this consultation and funding to develop the website before end March 2019.
 - The next meeting of Werrington Neighbourhood Council is Monday 4th February and it seems appropriate to have the forum meeting preceding this. This will be the inaugural meeting of the Forum with the appointment of officers. This will have to be publically advertised and called. The official business of the formation will be subject to the Forum having being approved by Peterborough City Council following the end of the consultation on 22nd January. City Council did suggest that this would be complete by end of January.
 - The meeting ended at 8.10pm.