

WERRINGTON AREA FORUM

MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th February 2019 AT WERRINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE NOTES FROM THE MEETING

PRESENT: 10 members of Werrington Neighbourhood Council, 12 other Werrington Residents and Cllr John Fox, Cllr Judy Fox, Cllr Steve Lane

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Martin Greaves, Kay Molyneux, Sandra Bond

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sally Weald welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Martin Greaves, Kay Molyneux, Sandra Bond

2. DECLARATIONS: INTERESTS, POLITICAL STATEMENTS AND PRIVACY STATEMENT

Sally advised that businesses and political interests have to be declared on an annual basis for a register and forms have been provided for this purpose. There will also an item on each agenda to declare additional specific interests. A decision will then be made if that person should withdraw.

3. OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Neighbourhood Forum and Plans: After going through the legal processes, Werrington Area Forum has been established for five years to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan. This starts with a full community consultation through a survey, focus groups, social media, meeting with community groups. With the input of our consultant, planning issues will be covered by a Neighbourhood Plan covering local planning policies which sits alongside Peterborough's Area Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is then open for consultation, it is independently verified and it is then voted on by Werrington residents. Alongside that we are putting together a Community Action Plan to bring about a difference for the social issues: litter, graffiti, speeding.

City Council Approval of Membership: The City Council had the 8 week consultation and there no objections. Questions were raised about the membership representing all age and racial groups of the Community. Forum advertising has been clear that all people and groups are welcomed. We have engagement from Ken Stimpson, play groups, Scouting/Guiding leaders. There is a commitment to future engagement to these groups. This obligation was completed to the City Council's satisfaction. Following a question, there is no Council Tax impact as this is a Neighbourhood Forum, not funded by the City Council. Membership is still open to anyone eligible and all meetings are open. Only members can, however, become an officer, join the steering group or be able to vote on decisions.

Structure: The structure is as follows: Werrington Community Association (needed to hold the funds), Werrington Neighbourhood Council (umbrella organisation to access funding opportunities and to provide the insurance and policies), Neighbourhood Forum (members and public meeting 4 times year), Steering Group (meeting every other month) and Action Groups.

Consultant and Workshop: The Forum has met with Mark Deas from ACRE who supports groups on their Neighbourhood Planning. He confirms that with no major planning issues the main way forward is to preserve what Werrington already has. Subject to funding he will lead a hands on workshop on 18th March with the Steering Group/ any interested person. Ideally looking for 8/10 people to take part in this.

Funding: There is a pot of £9,000 government available over the next two years through an organisation called Locality. Funding this year has to be spent by 31 March and the balance returned which is able to reapplied for next year. The application window for this year closed on 31st January and the first application went in with 2 days to spare. The minimum application is £1,000. The outcome is still awaited. However, £9,000 available is likely not be enough as the average is £13,000. Parish Councils have their precept to use, some other Local Authorities give their Neighbourhood Plan groups funding. Breckland gives £1,500 which Peterborough doesn't. John Fox pointed that usually Neighbourhood Plans wouldn't need to be funded by City Council as precept can be used for additional funding. Our Neighbourhood Plan will be small but even so it is expected that extra funding will be needed. So community support and sponsorship as needed. Other options are National Lottery funding as Neighbourhood Plans and Community Consultations are regularly funded. So Neighbourhood Council

will apply for £3,000 lottery funding for the consultation and community action plan and the level type of consultation. A key date for is carnival day on 22nd June to launch the consultation.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS:

Encouragement was given to everyone to either self-nominate or nominate someone else. After discussion the following appointments were made:

Chair: Vince Moon

Secretary: Sally Weald

Treasurer: Geoff Smith

5. APPOINTMENT OF STEERING GROUP

Sally advised that all meetings are open to everyone to join in but a core group is needed to keep momentum and to drive activities. A minimum of six people is needed with no upper limit. The following appointments were made: Vince moon, Sally Weald, Geoff Smith, Mick Wheatley, Roy Beard,

6. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION/TERMS OF REFERENCE

This had been discussed, revised and agreed at the previous two meetings. it had additionally been reviewed by the city council to ensure compliance with national expectations. After a vote this was adopted as the constitution and terms of reference.

7. CONFIRMATION OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The funding is required to be held by an incorporated organisation or charity. As Locality is happy for alternative organisations to hold money, Werrington Community Association has agreed to hold the funding. The Neighbourhood Council is a WCA trustee so it is a logical arrangement. It will be agreed how the two treasurers will work together.

8. MOVING FORWARD WITH STEERING GROUP AND SUB GROUPS.

It has been agreed that the steering group will meet with mark the consultant from acre on 18th march 2019 at a venue and time to be confirmed. sally suggests that the steering group meet before this to collate some of the expectations for the plan and the previous survey results. Following this she suggests that task groups are developed such as environment, Planning, Community Engagement, Young People, CARNIVAL TEAM. she has distributed forms so that people can indicate their interest but she will circulate details of all task groups so that people can join in as they want.

9. FINDING OUR LOCAL EXPERTS AND SKILLS PROFILE

The government funding is only £9,000 and there is a chance that alternative funding is not found. therefore, as much volunteer or goodwill needs to be identified. Forms circulated include these groups but Spotlight and newsletters are needed also.

10. TIMETABLE AND NEXT STEPS

The Steering Group will identify direction of neighbourhood plan and consultation and will take this to workshop on 18th March. The workshop will be open to all. Next Neighbourhood Forum meeting 13th May 7pm (venue to be confirmed)

QUESTIONS ASKED:

Has the Consultant been recommended? Sally said that Henry Clark of Peakirk Parish Council recommended Rachel, another ACRE consultant. As she was too busy, she recommended her colleague Mark. The Forum had met Mark at a 'free' introductory session and agreed afterwards that they would ask him to do a workshop. There is no obligation to continue with his services. He has 15 year's experience and is a member of Royal Town Planning Institute.

How much consultation work is needed? It is not really known. The workshop will help us start the process including the consultation. As evidence is collected, a consultant will be required to move forward. Mark had said that many groups use too much consultant's time when they could do things themselves so this will depend on what community support and skills is obtained.

Can all the money be spent rather than returning it? It would be useful to get some of the PR materials ordered but it doesn't really matter as the money still remains available to claim the following year.

As the WCA are holding the money, shouldn't they be involved in the Forum? Sally confirmed that four of WCA executive committee members are Forum members. But their only involvement will to pay invoices verified and passed over by our Treasurer.