

WERRINGTON AREA FORUM

MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th May 2019 AT THE BARN NOTES FROM THE MEETING

FORUM MEMBERS: Roy Beard, Charlotte Dew, Pauline Fury, Martin Greaves, Ivan Hammond, Bill Mercer, Vince Moon, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald.

WARD COUNCILLORS: Cllr Sandra Bond

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Rod Boulton, Cllr Judy Fox, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Steve Lane, Kay Molyneux, Mick Wheatly

VISITORS: Two members of the public

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Vince welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received as above.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Forum's AGM will be held alongside the Neighbourhood Council and so that will take place on 4th June. The report will say:

The Neighbourhood Council in 2018 decided to lead on the formation of an Area Forum to allow a Neighbourhood Plan to be undertaken. Neighbourhood Plans indicate their communities wishes in the development of their area. Whilst Werrington doesn't have any new development, the Plan can be used to protect the area's assets: its spaciousness, village buildings, its open spaces, its services. Alongside this a community action plan can be formed to support those issues falling outside the Neighbourhood Plan. This work is supported by a £9,000 grant available over 3 years. With the City Council's support over the last 6 months we have the formed the designated area, formed the Neighbourhood Forum and obtained our first amount of funding. This has enabled the website to be developed but mostly it enabled us to meet with ACRE's planning consultants who assisted with a timetable for the next steps (Copies of the report are available). I also present the accounts for the last financial year.

WERRINGTON AREA FORUM ACCOUNTS 2018-19			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Locality	£1036	Consultancy: ACRE	£480
		Website	£50
		Carnival	£30
		Refreshments	£20.90
		Returned to Locality	£455.10
Total	£1036	Total	£1036

The report and accounts were accepted by the meeting for presentation at the AGM. Nominations will be requested for the officer appointments which will be approved at the meeting.

FUNDING

Despite concerns being raised, Locality finally opened a new application window yesterday and the financial breakdown for next year is attached. This was duly approved

Proposed Budget for 2019-20	
Consultancy work 9 days	£4320
Website	£50

Meeting room hire and refreshments	£458
PR: Banners Carnival, posters	£1205
Consultation printing and delivery	£1757
Technical data purchase	£330
Total	£8120
Note: Amounts of £500 can be transferred between headings. Any amount unspent by 31 March 2020 must be returned but can be reapplied for next year	

Questions:

How will the 9 days of consultancy work? Sally advised that the break down is as follows:

Consultation support (1 day Developing evidence base (2.5 days), policy context analysis (3 days) scoping and workshop 3 days). She said that this was the worse case scenario. It is expected that some of the work could be undertaken by the group eg 2 and half days for data collection could be undertaken locally with ACRE support, this also assumes certain day to day support which might not happen

How many days work will be needed to write the report? Sally said that this is unknown and isn't in the current budget. ACRE has said that many groups give a lot of work to the consultant when they could do themselves and if there isn't the budget then that will happen. We could of course be taking about many days and this will be dependent on funding be available at the end.

How will the funding be managed? Sally said that up to £500 can be moved between headings and this is the worst-case scenario. The Lottery funding was turned down but whilst an appeal will be made it's a process question. There is a City Council bid in which will support some of Neighbourhood Councils work and might for instance pay for display boards which the Forum can use. The work may have to stop whilst sponsorship is found or crowdfunded ad-hoc. Roger pointed out the use of Parish Council precept in so many cases. Sally confirmed that one Parish Council gave £30,000, to the Neighbourhood Plan. BUT so many plans are tackling development issues and rationalizing housing sites. This also bring into question the expense of the community questionnaire (Also see below)

What does the data purchase relate to? Sally advised that this was a ball park figure as it is uncertain what is needed and at what stage but this could include the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environment Records Centre). Roger said that he may be able access some data.

REPORT FROM STEERING GROUP

- i) Following receiving the consultant's report, a small group met and the work progressed as follows
- ii) The plan is dependent on the vision and objectives. These will drive the questionnaire and hence the plan. The following was presented:

Draft Vision and Objectives

The people of Werrington wish to see a thriving, vibrant, caring and safe community where everyone of all ages feel comfortable and valued. We want to preserve the best of what we already have in Werrington - its distinctive character, heritage and natural assets, and bring about improvements with appropriate development. We want Werrington to become an even better place in which to live and to visit.

The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan will be as follows:

- The protection of the architectural heritage and distinctive characteristics of the area ensuring that new development contributes positively to Werrington's character in terms of the existing scale, density, location, design and layout.
- The maintenance and enhancement of the open spaces, natural habitats and green character of the area for the benefit of people, flora and wildlife including the preservation and improvement of access to the countryside.
- The continued development and improvement of Werrington embracing opportunities to support and improve services, facilities and local businesses whilst ensuring the maintenance of its identity, character and integrity

It was asked that the word 'development' is widened to emphasis existing buildings as well rather than new developments. Subject to this the wording was agreed and will be presented at the Carnival for community consultation and approval.

- iii) For the plan to be accepted, it has to be independently examined and there has to be proof of community consultation and engagement. So therefore it has been decided that an information leaflet with a series of questions to determine the issues for the area will be delivered to every residence. This was also agreed by the meeting.
- iv) Spotlight deliverers will be approached to see if they can deliver alongside Spotlight and as a thank you have arranged for some 'At Last vouchers'
- v) Current Spotlight again highlights the Forum's work and asks for help and support including sponsorship of the leaflets so we will see what help comes from that.
- vi) At the carnival we will promote the Plan and the objectives. We will have the flip charts for what's good, bad and what needs improvement and will have Postcards promoting the website
- vii) One problem, £9,000 is not enough to finance the plan - most cost £13,000. The Neighbourhood Council had a Lottery application submitted to cover some of this but unfortunately this has just been turned down. The steering group decided that we would progress as much as we could without being too extravagant with the money whilst alternative funding options are explored. The Forum agreed with this view.

NEXT PROJECTS

- To get the information leaflet, out to all the houses. It will be an 8 page A4 document. The first two pages will contain information - followed by some questions. Some other examples of other questionnaires are available. Questionnaire will go out in July or September. Sally will share the development of the questionnaire.
- Character Assessment - Alongside this we need to identify what the different characteristics of the different areas are and then to do a little survey of each area. See an example of the Main Street of Peakirk.

There was a discussion about what the characteristics might be and the difficulty of spitting the area into say 8 areas. The group will go away to consider this.

OTHER MATTERS

Trevor described the potential for a Werrington Levy (which should be fully distinguished from the common CIL & 106). The difficulties of communities accessing such funding were discussed. It was agreed that this idea will be explored further as the plan develops.

NEXT MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 4th June 7.15pm for 7.30pm Village Centre
Character Assessment Survey Launch: Monday 29th July 7pm The Barn