

WERRINGTON AREA FORUM

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2020

AT THE BARN

ATTENDEES: 12 members of the Werrington Neighbourhood Forum and 7 members of the general public

WELCOME: A welcome was given by the Forum Chair who wished everyone a Happy New Year. Apologies were received from Cllr Stephen Lane, Kay Molyneux, Roger Proudfoot, Charlotte Dew.

OVERVIEW: Sally Weald reminded everyone that Werrington's Neighbourhood Plan is a set of local planning policies written with the aid of consultants. We need to have evidence of the issue and our resident's need and that we have engaged with everyone in the community. Hence the questionnaire going to every house, the community engagement, the Character Assessment, Open Space assessment. Our planning issues can be included in the plan otherwise it's in a community action plan. The data already collected has shown its worth as information has been sent into the bus survey and been used in the policing community meeting. She explained that Peakirk have their plan in place, Glinton are at final consultation and Helpston are at a similar stage. It is harder for the City areas to do a plan as a Forum has to be formed.

FINANCE: Werrington has access to £9,000 to deliver the Plan for Werrington. Our last funding application will be in April and we will have until April 2021 before the money has to be returned. Therefore this is the date we need to aim for near completion. Geoff reported that funding has been spent on SurveyMonkey, printer ink, Tea room vouchers. Sally advised that the Consultant's Bill had not been received but expected to be approx £2,000. Sally said that the budget had suggested that the questionnaire would take £1,400 but due to sponsorship most of that money was saved and she thanked the local businesses again for their support

UPDATE:

- i) **City Council:** The steering group has met with the City Council who gave a lot of information and offered support. It was suggested that the Forum takes as much of this assistance as possible as it saves on Consultancy fees. This was challenged by a Forum member who suggested that there must be a motive for this support and is very suspicious. Sally said that ultimately the City Council has to accept the plan at the Consultation stage so any problems need to be ironed out at an early stage. It was asked what happens if City Council won't accept the plan. Sally said that Consultants will be used - it needn't be the same ones for the entire time and ultimately the Plan has to be examined by an independent examiner. It will be a process of negotiation.
- ii) **Community activities:** Visits to Womans Institute, Community Association (twice) Local History, Christmas tree festival, Cubs, Brownie, Guides, activity with painted stones, display at community policing event, Library drop in, Werrington conservation evening Plus earlier Village Show and Carnival
- iii) **Questionnaire:** Was delivered by Spotlight deliverers and other volunteers to all 5,500 households in the area comprising of 10,000 adults. That was a resounding success with over 950 responses, way over the normal expected levels of return. There are several reasons: Spotlight, Werrington community engagement and our facebook posts.. which was especially helped by John Fox's interest. SurveyMonkey was used to collate the results and help run the spreadsheets. Unfortunately nearly 200 of the 950 responses were in paper form so these had to be manually entered. The results were presented to the group with a summary of the comments
- iv) **YOUNG RESIDENTS and BUSINESS QUESTIONNAIRE.** Young resident's questionnaire was publicised via the original questionnaire, facebook, the youth groups and the four schools. We had 71 responses to the questionnaire. Year 6 of William Law especially supported the project. We spoke to over 60 young people of Princes Trust, Cubs, Brownies and guides and separately got 85 pieces of feedback in response to questions. 145 questionnaires were hand delivered to business and whilst we had 8 direct responses from business but 73 Werrington business owners responded in the main questionnaire

NEXT STEPS:

- i) **Character Assessment:** About a quarter of the areas have been recorded with only a handful of people involved despite several opportunities given over the last few weeks for people to join in. A concerted effort must be made to finish this project.
- ii) **Open Space Assessment:** We have the opportunity to give high levels of protection with the local green space designation. Cuckoos Hollow, Werrington Brook, the space adjoining Skaters Way and Werrington paddocks already have this protection. We may get 3 or 4 more if they fulfil the criteria. Then we can identify other important green spaces to emphasise in the Plan. There is always the general protection given by Werrington's open space and spaciousness. The list was circulated and Sally will arrange for a group to look at this set of work. There was a discussion about the current protection and which sites are vulnerable
- iii) **Protected View:** There is the chance to protect a handful of views. This will give extra protection from development and will especially help those parts of Werrington not in the Conservation Area. A list was considered. This will be protected on Facebook and Spotlight to get further engagement.
- iv) **POLICIES:** We need to decide what the evidence supports. A list was circulated of suggestions so far. We need to keep challenging in this.
- v) We need to get some of this evidence finalised so that we can agree next steps with consultants and formulate next year's budget.

QUESTIONS and OBSERVATIONS

Questionnaire results are confidential.

Reinstatement of rights of way such as the old footpath through NE Werrington

What can be done to help Welbourne – overgrown, damage from vehicles etc? Sally said that the Plan will only help with new development but an action plan could help residents engage with agencies. Cllr Fox confirmed his knowledge of the issues.

Why can't Werrington purchase the land adjoining Werrington Paddocks to prevent traveller trespass? Sally said this could only if a Parish Council was in place and is outside remit of Plan. John said that new legislation will help which removes the need to prove that anyone had broken in.