

PAIGNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

- Blatchcombe
- Clifton with Maidenway
- Goodrington, Roselands & Hookhills
- Paignton Town
- Preston



MINUTES OF A PAIGNTON STEERING GROUP MEETING

held in the Meeting Room, Palace Avenue Methodist Church, Paignton
at 6.30pm Tuesday 12 February 2013

www.paigntonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

www.torbay.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

In Attendance:

Cllr Jane Barnby, Gesche Buecker, Cllr Dave Butt, Tracey Cabache, Matthew Dart, Cllr Bobbie Davies, Jane Brooksbank, Cllr Stephen Brooksbank, Cllr Ian Doggett, Eileen Donovan, Louise Gilson, Alan Hill, Richard Kascow, Cllr Chris Lewis, Mike Parkes (Minutes), Cllr Ruth Pentney, David Pickhaver, Cllr Ken Pritchard, Cllr Jeanette Richards, Pat Steward, Cllr David Thomas, David Watts (Chairman).

AGENDA ITEM – 1. APOLOGIES RECEIVED AND WELCOME

1.a. Apologies had been received from Cllr John Thomas and George Thomas

1.b. David Watts, the Forum Chairman, welcomed those attending. He reminded the meeting that it had been previously both been voted upon, and agreed in August, that the Steering Group and Forum Group meetings would be combined in order to ensure a more inclusive community led approach. This would also have the advantage of saving on volunteers' time. However, at the last such meeting on the 23 Jan 13, the membership had supported the Chairman's proposal that it could be useful to convene a special meeting of the Steering Group in order to discuss aspects and findings of the recent Forum Questionnaire, the recently received Prince's Foundation Report, and proposed formation of a Stage 3 drafting group involving all 5 Community Partnership areas. He displayed the Forum membership distribution which made this possible.

AGENDA ITEM – 2. PROJECT PLAN PROGRESS

2. a. Stage 2 results. DW was able to report that those who had volunteered assistance at the last meeting were now involved in initial analysis and collation work on the Questionnaires and the PF Report. Additionally, the Treasurer had been asked to audit the Questionnaire returns.

2.b. Stage 3 preparation. Work was now at 'Stage 3' and would next need volunteer input from the 5 Community Partnerships. This would be discussed at the next meeting on 27 Feb 13. DW explained that, because of a pre-planned meeting on the 27 February, Council Officers had indicated that they would be unable to attend and instead, had agreed that Pat Steward could address this evening's Steering Group meeting later in the meeting on the latest Local Plan timetable.

2.c. DW recapped on how the 13 earlier SWOTS of Stage 1 had helped compile Aims and Objectives in Stage 2 which would next lead into the drafting of the plan itself in Stage 3.

2.d. He was asked where the questionnaires had been distributed and he explained that the concentration had been on two main areas as previously agreed i.e. Paignton and the Western side. There followed some discussion as to whether the Questionnaire contained some leading questions. It was pointed out that the actual results did not support that view as there was wide variation in the responses.

2.e. Returning to the Agenda displayed on screen, a member commented that he felt he was attending a presentation whereas, he had expected the evening to be a 'round table discussion'. Cllr David Thomas added that his understanding from para 3.2 of the constitution was that the Steering Group would meet monthly and that no paperwork had been received by him requesting any change to this position. He felt that the word 'Managed' was important when considering one of the functions

of a Steering Group. He was reminded that the joint meetings of the Forum and Steering Group had been held on a monthly basis as democratically agreed.

2.f. There followed a free ranging discussion and the following lists some of the points made:

(i) It was felt that it would be helpful to make clear the various roles of responsibility of those on the Steering Group.

(ii) It was suggested that some community leaders were not happy with the fact that the Steering Group did not meet separately and had asked that consideration be given as to how they could become more involved in order for them to 'get behind the plan'.

(iii) It was said that the Council needed to 'de-risk' the Neighbourhood Plan as there was a danger that it would not be approved.

(iii) It was suggested that the Questionnaire contained too few questions relating to Victoria Square and car park. This was contrasted with the number of questions relating to Collaton St Mary. It was explained again that question design had been determined from the SWOTs which focused on the issues the community wished to see progressed.

(iv) A Councillor member reminded the meeting that, at the beginning, the Forum had had to operate without a draft Local Plan and that had been delayed. Additionally, it was added that it was the Prince's Foundation that had recommended the areas that should be concentrated upon by the Forum. The Chairman added that there was, in fact, no need for a Neighbourhood Plan to follow an emerging Local Plan.

(v) Concern was expressed regarding the consistency of attendance by Forum Council members and another member felt that there was a 'closed shop' style of leadership.

(vi) It was suggested that previous research and reports had been overlooked and should be considered wherever possible e.g. there had been a 5 year debate regarding Victoria Square and it was felt that such information should have been 'taken on board'. The point was made they had been but the community wanted progress.

(vii) A Councillor stated that he wanted the Steering Group to bring both parties together. Another wanted to share knowledge of his CP with the whole Forum with the aim of promoting a better sense of community. A third Councillor expressed the opinion that, currently, there was insufficient confidence by some in the work of the Forum.

(viii) A member felt that, although it was 'water under the bridge', it was felt that one of the problems was that attendance in formative months by member councillors had been erratic. Active involvement had revolved around a few and, to not attend because an area was not being covered or that points were being over ruled was not what Councillors had been elected for.

(ix) Another member felt that she wished to participate far more but queried how the Chairman was going to deal with comments made so far. Disquiet was expressed by one attendee that DW chaired both the Steering Group and the Forum.

(x) There was a request that Clennon Valley be included as an agenda item for the meeting of 27 February. The Chairman explained that it had already been planned that Clennon Valley, the Town Centre and other areas would be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.

(xi) A member felt that something was needed to restore people's confidence in an attempt to bring them together; however, a Councillor regarded that one of the main purposes of the evening was to discuss Community Partnership involvement and that discussion on this would start the process and that the present line of debate was impeding the objective.

(xii) There was a suggestion that a possible way forward might be for the Steering Group and Forum Group to meet on an alternative monthly basis.

(xiii) A Councillor suggested that an alternative way forward might be to ask the 5 Community Partnerships to produce the draft for their part of the Plan area. These could then be presented to the

Forum for its approval and incorporation into the Neighbourhood Plan. There was agreement from all 5 Community Partnerships represented to this suggestion. The Forum Chairman was asked for his view on the proposal and confirmed he was happy to recommend it to the Forum if it was being agreed it would not mean each area starting from a blank sheet and would incorporate completed Stages 1 and 2. This was accepted.

(xiv) There was general agreement that the suggested ideas at (xii) and (xiii) above offered a basis for a way forward and that an agreement on the correct phrasing needed to be considered, either "alternate the Forum meeting with a Steering Group meeting" or "the Forum to meet every month and the Steering Group meeting to meet every other month." An emphasis was put on the spirit of the wording. It was requested that the Chairman present these proposals to the meeting arranged for 27 Feb 13.

(xiv) In conclusion, a representative from the Spatial Planning Department informed the meeting that it would be acceptable to the Local Authority to extend the deadline submission of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan by 6 months i.e. Sep 13, and it was for the Forum to decide how it wished to use the Frontrunner resource.

(xv) The meeting was closed at 2025.

3. DATE OF THE NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING:

No date was set pending the Forum decision on 27 February 2013.