

SHEPTON MALLET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Monday, 17th June, 2013

MINUTES

Present: Matt Day, Stuart Brown, John Parham, Anna Blackburn, Peter Hillman,
Gretal Marsh

1. Apologies: None
2. Minutes from the last meeting (9th May) – Peter Hillman suggested 3 amendments; these were agreed and Matt will circulate the approved version.
3. Update : Matt gave a brief synopsis of the two events which had already taken place. Publicity had given good coverage so far, the Facebook page had been updated and he had attended the Redrow exhibition.

The main issues raised at the events seemed to be protecting the countryside, developing cycle paths and footpaths, making the Town Centre more attractive and used and also the lack of leisure activities and community facilities. It had also been felt that derelict buildings were not giving a good impression of the Town Centre.

Terry Marsh had stepped down as he had felt it would be incorrect to have the Chairman of the Town Council on this group.

Peter raised the point that a lot of residents did not understand what could be classed as a planning issue and what was not. Matt and Anna gave some examples, and further discussion on this matter then took place. Anna explained the situation regarding the Redrow application; there will be a District-wide Review of housing numbers soon, using Census 2011 figures, following the Evercreech Appeal decision. John commented that one point which had come out of the two events was that there seemed to be a lack of understanding of what the Neighbourhood Plan was actually all about.

4. Membership of the Steering Group – Matt advised there had been two offers of help from residents – Tanya Griffiths & Robert Storer, both from the Cowl Street area. Discussion then took place on the function and makeup of the Steering Group. A decision was made to invite them along to the next meeting. **ACTION Matt.** It was suggested that another Town Councillor could be invited on – Chris Inchley was suggested by Matt. No decision made on this, but keep under review. Stuart suggested we needed some simple Terms of Reference. **ACTION Matt to draft.**
5. Leadership of the Neighbourhood Plan – Peter again felt a local figurehead was needed, with little ‘baggage’, and discussion took place on possible candidates to stand as

Chairman/Champion. None were obvious. This matter was then left for further discussion at the next meeting. Anna suggested Jeff Curtis may have met people during his visits to groups. **ACTION Matt would check with Jeff.** Someone may emerge as we proceed.

6. The Way Ahead – Matt will be collating the results of the feedback forms after 30th June. John advised that a space had been booked for another event at the Mid-Somerset Show in August. Discussion took place on how to use this opportunity. Peter wanted a repeat of the first two events, and noted that time was tight taking into account holidays. Anna suggested progressing on to showing the issues already raised from the two events and from the feedback forms, grouped under themes. The focus of the event would then be on finding some solutions. Matt agreed with this; as there were no other objections, it was agreed. **ACTION Matt to plan for Mid-Somerset Show.**
7. Any Other Business – It was thought that Jeff Curtis should be invited back onto the Steering Group and to attend the meetings. **ACTION Matt to invite Jeff.**
8. The next meeting will be on Monday, 15th July at 4.00pm, Town Council offices.

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