

SHEPTON MALLET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Friday, 1st November, 2013

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Matt Day, John Parham, Jeff Curtis, Anna Blackburn, Tanya Griffiths, Claire Sully, Gretal Marsh
Apologies: None
2. **Minutes from the last meeting** (4th October) were approved.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) Actions – Matt had chased up the traders and had spoken with Anna Perra, who would mention it at the meeting on Monday. No response from Ian Jarmaine (Chamber) yet.
 - b) Any other Business – Grant from Locality has been approved (£5,400.00).
- 4) **Feedback on Draft Objectives List:**
 - a) Only one response so far from Claire Chettoe at Mendip Community Support. Matt advised the meeting that the press release had appeared in “The Journal” but unfortunately had missed out some of the detail on the workshops. He may issue another release if needed.
 - b) Jeff reported that the Guides would be interested in attending a workshop as they might lose their space in Whitstone School and would therefore need to find new premises. Other groups would be in a similar situation. John told the meeting this might be as a result of Whitstone School now being an Academy. Matt suggested we go and see the Head of Whitstone to discuss this in an effort to achieve a long term resolution. Further discussion on this took place and it was agreed that Matt would try and set up a meeting; Jeff offered to attend.
Action: Matt
- 5) **Options (updates and scoping):**
Prison: A meeting had been held with Kevin Hunt (Jones Laing Laselle, planning consultants for Ministry of Justice) at which SG members had been shown three options which included a heritage centre and/or a community space, and reference was made to the Neighbourhood Plan’s objectives. Matt pointed out 9 other options were not shown. However, Anna told the meeting that the timescale was unrealistic, given approval was needed from English Heritage. Claire thought the meeting had been positive and will be running an online survey to gather further views on the prison redevelopment.

John advised that a working group at MDC had been set up specifically to look at the prison. Matt suggested that this could be expanded to include other community members (i.e. a Steering Group member and other interested parties) so there was one

process taking place. John would raise this with the working party. **Action: John**
Discussion then took place on the effects of the meeting and possible outcomes, and how the prison redevelopment can be moved forward in the right direction to bring about a positive result for Shepton. John said a S106 agreement with any developer would be a suitable mechanism to deliver the community facility. Matt suggested and it was agreed that a charitable trust or similar should be set up to deliver then manage a Heritage or Community Centre, as this would be a better option for a number of reasons than the Town Council running it. Matt would add more detail to the prison proposal. **Action: Matt**

BT Building: Not an option as owner's not willing to move or dispose of part of the site.

Amulet : Matt had spoken with Kevin Newton, who is keen to proceed with a commercial tenant only.

Anglo Brewery: Jeff and Matt had been for a tour of the building but it was not thought suitable for community use due to space, traffic and parking issues. It was agreed a meeting should be held with English Heritage to try and move this project forward, and to discuss the prison. **Action: Matt**

Police Station: Matt had tried to contact A&S Constabulary's Estates Officer with no joy. John told the meeting that the Police would be moving into the MDC hub and then the building would be sold. Discussion took place on what type of development the building would be suitable for.

John mentioned that Mendip were going to allocate space on the Bath & West Showground for enterprise/innovation (i.e. start-up business space and support). Matt noted that this shouldn't undermine or clash with efforts to support town centre regeneration. John said there was an MDC plan to create an innovation centre (to support job creation) on the Registry Office site.

Cowl Street & Hillmead issues: Matt had met with MDC's Conservation Officer regarding these and written to the residents representative Cllr Bente Height. John reported that it was possible for residents to apply to extend the conservation area, but conservation areas are to protect buildings of architectural or historic significance and could not include open green space such as that above the cemetery. Tanya asked what else could be done and John suggested the design guide/statement may be the best way to try and control in-fill development; however people have permitted development rights even within a Conservation Area so stopping all in-fill would be difficult.

6) **Next Steps - Workshops:**

Matt advised the meeting of the need for workshops on town centre issues, young people and possibly cycle paths, to add detail and gain consensus. Matt suggested the second Tuesday in December for the town centre workshop. *[Post meeting note: date now confirmed as Tuesday 14th January 7-9pm in Salvation Army Hall; by invite only]*

- 7) Any Other Business: None.
- 8) The next meeting will be on Friday, 6th December at **5.00pm**, in the Town Council offices.

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