

SHEPTON MALLET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Wednesday, 1st October, 2014

MINUTES

Present: John Parham, Anna Blackburn, Laura Miller (CAB), Neil Watkins, Nicola Cooper (deputy for Nigel Pooley), Irene Handley, Neil Shearn, Greta Marsh

1. **Apologies:** Mike Perry, Jill Weston, Karen Mercer
2. **Welcome:** John welcomed everyone to the meeting.
3. **Minutes from the last meeting** (5th September, 2014) were approved.
4. **Matters Arising from Minutes – None**
5. **Steering Group Membership** – John introduced everyone as there were some new members and gave an update of the Neighbourhood Plan so far. Although the date of the General Election for the referendum did not now seem feasible, it was hoped that a date for the referendum would be sometime in 2015. Nicola asked about the referendum and John and Anna explained this point. John mentioned the website and the Facebook page.
6. **Business Consultation Event** – John told the meeting about the Business Consultation Event (lunch) to be held at Kilver Court; everyone was welcome to attend. John then handed out a survey which he intended to be used at the event. Discussion then took place on this and several amendments were suggested. John then advised the form would be re-done but if anyone had any other amendments to let him know by the weekend. He then went on to explain the plan for the Event. A question was asked on expected attendance and John advised 30 people had so far accepted an invitation but it was hoped that up to 50 people would attend. It was suggested there should be a list of who had attended and everyone to be given badges, including members of the Steering Group who were able to attend. Liz Bourne from Towns Alive was also expected to be present. A question was asked on expected growth of the population in Shepton Mallet, if businesses wanted this information and Anna said she would prepare something which would give the key points.
7. **Target Time Schedule** – May 2015 is not now feasible, as already mentioned. It would not be possible to have the referendum before this date as the Plan would not be ready. The ideal time would be September 2015. Anyone on the Electoral Register (ie over 18) would be eligible to vote. Discussion then took place on the use of a logo, and what this should be. This point was to be given some thought for discussion at the next meeting.

8. **Town Council Data Collection** – John advised that a meeting had been held with the shopkeepers in Shepton. He then talked about the data required from shoppers and gave out a brief summary of questions which needed to be asked. Discussion then took place regarding the town centre and John then handed round a list suggested by Jill Weston on data to be obtained. Further discussion then took place on the problems with the town centre. John asked everyone to think about the questions which needed to be asked and the format this should take, ready for discussion at the next meeting.
9. **Any Other Business** – Neil pointed out that discussion had not taken place on housing. John said this had not been put on the Agenda for this meeting but would be discussed again at another meeting.
10. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 6th November at 6.00pm; meeting place to be advised before this date.

---ooOoo---