

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP MEETING

Held at Burneside Cricket Club, 16th September 2017, 12.00 pm

Present:

Sue Cook (Deputy Team Leader)
John McCurdie (Secretary)
Jannice Wilkinson
Chris Granger
Claire Ellwood
Jenny Harrison
Patrick Willink
Sue Clothier
Judith Notley
George Quayle
Roger Leather
Gordon McIver
Arty Cropper
Geoff Marvin
Gayle Howarth
Alan Thompson (Community Monitor)

Introduction:

Sue Cook welcomed everyone and introduced the members of the Steering Group who were present. She admitted that communications had not been as good as they should have been, and today was intended for the Neighbourhood Plan Team to catch up on events.

Claire continued by stating that the Steering Group wanted to share the updates with the Neighbourhood Plan Team first to get a collective outcome and move forward. She had noted comments on Facebook and people talking that the Neighbourhood Plan was a "done deal" and that there were "personal gains", but people were just hearing snippets. She said that before she joined the team she had been cynical and so she wanted involvement.

Chris gave the presentation of the slide show, which has been circulated and handouts were available. He said that he wanted to go back to the inception and bring everyone up to speed. The idea of the Neighbourhood Plan was to protect key assets: people, countryside, history, etc. but that the Neighbourhood Plan could attract new facilities, e.g. improved Post Office, dentist, social space. He said that post-it notes from participation events showed that the shop was a major issue, even with strangers to the village.

The development of the Neighbourhood Plan had started in June 2016 with the first workshop that developed the four components of the plan, followed in September by the first drop-in event. Following those, the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan were developed, and another drop-in event was held in May 2017.

The four components of the plan are:

Development and Infrastructure

Environment and Design

Services and Facilities

Traffic, Transport and Movement

Details of the aims of each component, and overall feedback from the September 2016 drop-in event were listed on the presentation slides.

Chris emphasised that feedback and proposals were not just from the Neighbourhood Plan Team and were not necessarily going to be in the Neighbourhood Plan or happen. He said that the significance of land allocations and why they were tackled first was that they were fundamental to all aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan. Most Neighbourhood Plans contain reactions and preventative actions, whereas ours has aspirations. Chris concluded by saying that today would lead to a surgery on the 25th of September, when reactions would be looked at and there would be an opportunity to discuss in depth.

Question and answer session

Roger Leather said that possible relocation of the station had been mentioned to accommodate the passing loop, but that he had made a Freedom of Information request to Network Rail, and the passing loop would definitely be at Staveley.

Gayle Howarth asked if the community can override SLDC's allocations (Hall Park Extension and Willink Field). Patrick Willink replied that we can not, but we can listen and suggest ideas.

Gayle Howarth asked how will the groups work together to get a good solution, e.g. footpaths, cycle ways.

Gordon McIver asked if the 50-60 people in the Neighbourhood Plan Team could be used to spread news about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Roger Leather said that Steering Group minutes should be published even if completely redacted. Geoff Marvin said that sub-committees should be public. John McCurdie replied that the operative word was "should" not "must". Patrick Willink added that the Steering Group had been made aware of plans for possible expansion of James Cropper plc that were commercially sensitive and not for public knowledge.

Judith Notley said that nobody on the team was paid, carried out a lot of work, and that there was a sense of paranoia in the community.

Gayle said the Steering Group was kept quiet and was not open. There was trust in a small group of people, and that no community needs had been applied by the Steering Group. Chris replied that the size of the Steering Group was unwieldy already, with difficulty in arranging meetings convenient to most. He asked who was not representative, to which Gayle replied that it was not representative. Patrick asked rhetorically if it was representative of the

community. He said that the Steering Group were not clones and have diverse views. In his opinion, the Steering Group was more representative than not.

Gayle Howarth asked how members of the Steering Group had been selected, e.g. had there been interviews? Sue Cook and Claire Ellwood related their experiences of being selected, which was basically a long conversation with Tony Hill about their understanding of Neighbourhood Plans and what they felt that they could bring to the team. Gayle said that she had pulled out of having that conversation but still wanted to be on the Steering Group.

In a continuation of the issue of Steering Group minutes, Chris said that the minutes would be redacted and published if necessary, but that it would take a lot of time that could be used more usefully.

George Quayle said that the comments about capacity problems were a red herring, and that the Steering Group should involve people who can contribute. Patrick refuted that capacity was a red herring, remarking that it was a very real problem, but said that the Steering Group may not have leveraged all the knowledge that was available.

Alan Thompson asked if George and Roger could motivate the Neighbourhood Plan Team and the village, to which Judith Notley suggested Gayle Howarth as well. Alan agreed, and asked if all three could motivate others.

Geoffrey Marvin said that he was in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, if gone about in the right way. He suggested that people would come to meetings and events if they were about single issues, e.g. the shop, traffic, etc.

George Quayle asked why not ask for a delay until the end of March? Chris replied that the draft plan was already behind schedule and that grants for consultants' work and habitat assessments had a deadline of the end of December 2017.

Alan Thompson mentioned that at least 2 people on the Steering Group had wanted to walk away, and that there had been a lot of abuse on social media.

Patrick Willink said that volunteers did not need to be asked to do something. If ambassadors are needed, he expected that they would identify themselves as such and just go out and do it.

George Quayle wanted the Neighbourhood Plan to be started again, and that he was concerned about the current plan and the finances behind it, it was a "done deal", and there were self-imposed deadlines. Patrick asked George that, if there was a hard deadline of 31st December, would George help to work towards it? George replied no, and that he needed more information. Judith said that there was no "done deal" finality, and that we should all be working towards the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Jenny Harrison said that she was still unsure about the interaction between the Steering Group and the Neighbourhood Plan Team. She was not seeing positivity.

George Quayle asked if it was possible to get a communiqué asking people to volunteer. Sue Cook said that you could not make people come to Neighbourhood Plan events. Sue Clothier

asked if there could be a leaflet with a synopsis of the Neighbourhood Plan, and offered to deliver some of them. Claire Ellwood suggested that it could go into the Parish Newsletter. Geoff Marvin said that the Parish Newsletter did not go to all households, and suggested setting aside a notice board for weekly updates, especially outside the shop.

The meeting ended at 1.40pm because the room had to be cleared for another function at 2pm.

John McCurdie
Secretary, Burneside Neighbourhood Plan Team