

Burnside Neighbourhood Plan – Steering Group Monitoring (Nigel Davies 14 Jun 2017)

Meeting's purpose was to respond to the extended 'Call for Sites' Consultation. The consultation had generated detailed responses from a few. The level of negativity especially from Bowston Residents had not been anticipated. General lack of engagement by other residents also not anticipated. However, the capacity of Tony and John to respond to the various submissions, in the given time frame, was in doubt. In the light of what has happened Tony believes that additional professional help is needed.

Comments

- The Steering Group don't seem to be doing much steering at present.
- Recent activity has been focusing on process rather than outcomes.
- Much activity, but little forward momentum.
- What does professional help bring to the table?
- Do consultants alienate people and mean loss of control?
- To function well the Steering Group needs to meet more regularly, so that they can move forward and focus on the outcomes. If regular dates are added on a set day in the month, then eventually everyone's diary synchronises.
- Nigel McGurk's role is not clear to me. Is he facilitator to the group or ghost writer of the material submitted to him?
- If much work has been done by some, can Nigel McGurk not begin to shape this material?
- Can a live draft working document be produced which is amended and added to as the work is done?
- Use of good visuals is more effective than plans or verbal explanations – 'A picture paints a thousand words' to quote the song.
- There is a need to refocus on outcomes and keep these to the fore, rather than getting bogged down in process. I am sure that 'boxes need to be ticked' but ticking them is a means to an end, not an end in itself.
- Communication has used many mediums which is good. It does rely on people wanting to hear what is being communicated. Messages need to be received and it is not always the fault of the communicator if this doesn't happen. People may not be 'listening' or 'want to listen' to the message.