

FIRST STEERING GROUP MEETING

Held at St. Oswald's Church Meeting Room, 8 June 2016, 7.30pm

Present:

Tony Hill (Team Leader)
David Ginsberg (ex officio)
Jannice Wilkinson (ex officio)
Mark Cropper
Patrick Willink
Sue Cook
Claire Ellwood
John McCurdie (Secretary)
Alan Johnson (Community Monitor)

Introduction:

Tony Hill welcomed the group and asked that the group be aware of a few points:

- any problem should be shared;
- Tony is always available, so call, ring, or telephone, but not e-mail;
- e-mails such as minutes and actions will be distributed by John;
- remember that everyone on the Steering Group represents Burneside Parish Council;
- above us are South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) and the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNP), the lead authorities.

Tony reminded everyone to send him their personal profiles by 16th June.

There was a poll of how people felt about the work of the Steering Group in developing the Neighbourhood Plan, which received replies of excited (twice), relieved, hopeful, enthusiastic, continuity, keen, open, and busy.

Tony explained that the role of Community Monitor was to observe each meeting, and appraise it to check that it met the needs of the community. He explained that David Ginsberg (Chair, Burneside PC) is ex officio, as is Jannice Wilkinson (Deputy Chair, Burneside PC).

Pennie Ridyard has resigned from the Steering Group for health reasons, and another person will be co-opted until July.

Objectives:

Tony said that the objective for the Steering Group was to develop a Neighbourhood Plan that reflected the views of the community. There is no room for complacency, and the Plan is a legal document once it has been voted through by the community. On average, 32% of people in the community eligible to vote do so, with a "yes" vote of 89%.

Structure of the group:

Tony said that he would be the team leader but not necessarily the major presence in the group, and would act as a facilitator. He would link to the Parish Council, SLDC and LDNP, and to Nigel McGurk, the consultant advisor to the group.

He would ensure good communications with stakeholders, and may ask for help in that task. He would project manage the development of the plan and check that resources were available. He reminded everyone that the group was comprised only of amateurs and that help from the community would be needed. He would be the first point of contact if a grievance should occur.

The chain of communication will be to David Ginsberg and then to the Parish Council.

As secretary, John will be the "engine room", but he would need help, and would require people to respond quickly.

The role of members of the Steering Group would be:

- above all, to be open and honest;
- listen and understand what people are saying;
- do not shut out anything;
- discuss matters as you see fit, with no need to involve Tony;
- talk to locals;
- learn to communicate well, being clear, precise, and concise;
- evaluate things that you hear.

There was a question about the role of community monitor being an official one. It is not an official role, but it will be written into the plan.

Draft Project Plan:

The Project Plan is intended for SLDC, LDNP, etc. and shows our own ethos. Members of the Steering Group are encouraged to comment on the Project Plan.

Structure of the Neighbourhood Plan:

This was run mainly as an open forum.

Tony queried if everyone understood Noel Farrer's role, and that Vision Plus was being worked on, encapsulating key ideas from the Vision document.

Mark	Noel will translate ideas into a presentation.
Patrick	Worried slightly about the Vision document. It could be seen as divisive and many will see it as a "stitch-up".
Sue	The problem with the Vision document is that "it is a secret that is not a secret". It should be seen as a starting point.

- Patrick Felt that the Vision document almost had to be put to one side but that it would help in developing the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Claire Agreed with Patrick. She felt that a lot of people came to the meeting on 16th May not realising what the Vision document was for, and that they had heard only selective parts of it, e.g. moving the school.
- Mark A lot of people had seen it, and asked if it should be made accessible to all (some people shook heads at this suggestion).
- Patrick Felt that the document was "priming the pump".
- Jannice Alan and she were involved in the 2004 Parish Plan. She felt that the thoughts in it were low-level, e.g. more litter bins, rather than a vision of what could be achieved.
- Alan Pleased that the Vision document was **not** being mixed up with the Neighbourhood Plan. He felt that there should be public consultation sooner rather than later.
- Sue Suggested that the start point could be that the Vision document is marketed as something that the community **could** do rather than **will** do. She thought that it could be mentioned in a transitory way, and could act as a stimulant for ideas.
- Mark Wanted the Neighbourhood Plan to have the same level of aspiration that the Vision contained.
- Claire Remarked that there seemed to be no ownership by Burneside village.
- Mark Had noticed that there was some provocation. He remarked that if people could have a copy of the Vision document if they asked him.
- David One important point to note was that the Inspector of the Neighbourhood Plan would ask how we reached the finished document, and that half of the Vision document gives the background.
- Tony Agreed with Mark that the key point was that the Neighbourhood Plan should have a high level of aspiration.
- Patrick Felt that the Vision document would work against us, and that it should be used only as background information.
- David Concerned that, at the next Neighbourhood Planning Meeting, Nigel would be talking technicalities. Mark echoed that concern.
- Tony The meeting will be a **workshop**.
- Patrick Asked about the perception of Nigel's role.
- Sue He would be a facilitator, not a leader.
- Tony Who should lead the workshop? He thought that it should be someone outside the main group.
- Mark Stick with Nigel for the initial workshop.

Project Development

Before the 24th, Tony will ask Nigel if the current document is a blueprint. He thought that there should be a couple of sessions as an introduction. An open forum followed.

- Mark Felt that the Neighbourhood Plan should be drawn up, and then ask views of the neighbourhood.
- Patrick Thought that this would have the same danger as the Vision of being "us and them". He wanted to have engagement→work→engagement→work.
- Tony Wanted to avoid the community thinking that the agenda had already been set.
- Tony Asked all to have a really good look at the Project Development document and to come back with questions and suggestions.
- Patrick Suspected that the community may not engage.
- Claire Responses are more negative than positive.
- John Suggested using Nigel's experience with other councils to improve engagement.

Tony asked everyone to consider the headings for the 4 key areas in the Neighbourhood Plan.

He asked if opinion was that we had moved forward, and consensus was that it had been a helpful meeting that had advanced the project.

Patrick asked that future meetings should avoid Wednesdays, to which Sue and Mark added support.

The meeting ended at 2045.

John McCurdie
Secretary, Burneside Neighbourhood Plan Team