

Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

11/01/2022

In attendance: Amy Hardingson, Richard Lewis, Ann Page, Trevor Harris, Caroline Rackham, Neville Penman, Emma Cully, Christine Farleigh, Ken Farleigh

Meeting start time 7pm

Caroline: Unfortunately the meeting with Clare Upton Brown that we were anticipating today was cancelled last minute which is a shame. We have an alternative meeting date of 24th January which hopefully will go ahead.

Looking for another chair. No one else interested in being chair at this time.

Amy pitches a Facebook page which is agreed upon

Looking at events in May/ June. Discussion that next event should happen in Calmore. Neville to talk to the community centre about dates in June for an event.

Discussion moves to how we move forward

Looking at going forward:

1. Wait for Clare
2. Carry on and merge with Clare
3. Getting an independent consultant in

Richard: Recommendation I can make for a consultant is that it takes the pressure off the chair. You can also hire someone to be a professional client for you. Someone who will write the brief and has knowledge in that area.

There's also a website that does interactive mapping and you can make comments on a street or a place. It's a bit like post it notes but online. And you can analyse the information coming in. That's quite low cost. £2-3k for a digital map where you can comment on a thing you can see.

As Richard is a planning consultant (who may bid for any work we put out to tender) he leaves the discussion at this point so that the rest of our discussion and final decision can be made impartially.

Caroline: Looking at going forward we have 3 options:

1. Wait for Clare
2. Carry on and merge with Clare
3. Getting an independent consultant in

Neville: Have you managed to speak with Clare?

Caroline: No, unfortunately the meeting today was cancelled. But there are some things we can get on with. We know she wants evidence so we can certainly get on with that. But ultimately we need to be doing things that we know are fitting in with NFDC.

Christine: How much money do we have?

Caroline: About 6k altogether, and there's potentially more available. Catherine did a freedom of information enquiry which saw there was another 4k from NFDC sent to us which we've not seen.

Christine: Can we afford both?

Caroline: Possibly. The digital map that Richard mentioned is interesting because that's excellent evidence gathering.

Trevor: My observation from the council meeting is that NFDC felt we didn't have enough direction and we need to speak with Clare. Should we defer and decide later after speaking?

Caroline: I agree that would be nice, but on the one hand we're being told we're not getting ahead and on the other we're struggling to get hold of NFDC officers. We need to understand what the gaps are that they are speaking of. We need to get help if we don't get a consultant. We know that NFDC will be engaged on the projects they are working on that intersect with ours, but they won't have time outside of that to offer to us.

Neville: We have the money for the consultant don't we?

Caroline: Yes, we have something between £5-10k. And if the council could support the process that would help things enormously. We can employ someone with a budget, and go from there.

Christine: What are the list of things we can do?

Caroline: NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) is a gov document that we need to adhere to, and what we've come up with are suggestions

but we need to make sure they fit with the national planning framework. We have some limited evidence, but we need much more of an evidence base. And also things are changing – the numbers of people travelling for work has changed for instance.

Ann: I think we should get a consultant

Neville: I agree

Trevor: We have the money allocated so we should spend it

Caroline: Anyone disagree?

No

Caroline: Brilliant. We should probably put this before full council to inform them of what we're doing. Let's see if we can get it on the agenda for the 26th, and hopefully I'll have spoken to Clare by then.

Trevor: Should more of us come along to the meeting with Clare?

Caroline: That would be lovely. 2 or 3 would be ideal. Especially one of our members with a planning background.

Trevor: It seems to me that NFDC seem to have a different opinion to other planners we've spoken to which is confusing

Caroline: Who would like to come? It's on Teams. Trevor are you interested?

Trevor: Yes, Zoom would be better for me. Saves me downloading other applications.

Christine: I think it might break down more barriers if you're meeting in person.

Caroline: I did suggest that, but the official policy at the moment is for online unless it's an official council meeting. So Neville and Trevor would like to come, I'll also ask Katherine and Richard. I think it's at 9am on Monday 24th.

If we look into getting a consultant... First steps I can look into who other areas have employed. And then we can write a brief.

In the meantime Amy can work on a Facebook page.

Ann can you look at dates for another consultation event. Later in June would be better to avoid the Queen's bank holiday.

Use different venue

Neville: Shall I ask at Calmore about dates? Saturday in mid to late June

Caroline: Shall we meet beginning of Feb to work on the brief for the consultant?

Yes

Ann: the sooner we can get a consultant the better.

Caroline: Tuesday 1st Feb for next meeting.

Meeting end: 7.45pm

Action Items

- Amy to set up Facebook Page
- Neville to contact Calmore Community Centre about dates for a community event
- Caroline to send NFDC meeting link to Trevor & Neville and speak to Katherine and Richard about attending