

Winterbournes Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)
Minutes of 12th meeting held on 14th October 2014

Attendance:

Steve Bucknell (SB), Chris Campbell-Jones (CCJ), Maureen Atkinson (MA), Peter Ostli-East (POE), and Richard Folkes (RF).

Apologies: Graham Lloyd, Peter Biggins, Mervyn Pannett

The meeting was convened as the proposed public meeting on November 22nd was fast approaching. Decisions had to be made as to whether the event would proceed and, if so, who would take responsibility for planning the meeting and the presentation.

SB had already indicated by e-mail that due to pressure of work and that the NPSG was intended to run independently of the PC that he would not be taking on the task. **MP** had offered by e-mail to be part of the presentation team on the day of the meeting. **POE** suggested that our WC Link Officer, Sarah Hughes, could be invited to the public meeting and take on part of the presentation role.

This led to a wider discussion on the progress to-date. The overall feeling was one of frustration that we had not been able to move the process forward more quickly since the launch of the SG two years ago. The probable reasons behind this were thought to be concerned with the nature of the task at hand. The views expressed included:

1. The SG is relatively small and its members all have busy professional and personal lives. As such, moving matters forward between meetings is difficult.
2. The NP is a large amount of work as indicated by the size of the Downton SG.
3. There is not a clear route to delivery of the NP and the SG have received confused messages from our Unitary Councillors and WC staff.
4. It remains unclear that the NP will deliver the goals identified in our 'Statement of Needs' document, though the overall feeling of the meeting was that, on balance, having a NP would be a good thing.
5. The community seems to be largely disinterested in the process as evidenced by minimal response to VL articles and the display at the Church Fete. Numerous requests for additional SG members have not been successful.

6. The lack of engagement with the community makes it difficult for the SG to develop an effective consultation process which leaves it up to the SG to make decisions on the details of the plan. It is unlikely that a NP produced in this manner would pass the external audit prior to a village referendum.

Taking into account the points above and that no-one felt able to take on the task of the November public meeting, it was decided that the meeting had to be cancelled.

It was decided to hold a further meeting of the SG in November, once **MP** was available again, to decide if the NP process should be ended for the present or re-launched with fresh appeals for additional members.

Throughout the discussion, it was noted that there was no criticism of the SG members in that they had stepped up and given significant time and effort over the last two years. In particular, the chairman (**MP**) had driven the process forward and contributed much of the detailed work.

The meeting closed at 9pm.