

Minutes of the second Meeting of the Ewelme Neighbourhood Plan Working Party 20th February 2017

Chair: tbc

Facilitator: Geoff Watts

Present: Sue Cooper, Philip Chamberlain, Richard Davey, Rev. Jonathan Meyer, Martin Spence, David Cooper, David Solomon, Roger Moore, Chris Jenkins, Andy Evans, Mary Taylor-Lane, Ellie Clements, Linda Chilcott, John Gardner, Neil Blake, Andy Green, Shirley Meyer, Gemma Benoliel and Geoff Botting.

Apologies: Sarah Maine

NB. For the sake of brevity, participants will be referred to by their initials in these minutes.

Please note: these minutes do not adhere to the numbering system of the agenda, as due to the presence of the guest speaker and the number of questions generated, this was not practical.

GW provided all present with a set of objectives and an agenda.

1. **Welcome and introduction:** those present introduced themselves briefly and stated their interest in participating.

GW outlined the purpose of the meeting as stated in the agenda and was clear to point out that if people were unsure about the need to continue/ did not wish to take the matter further then they should make this known at this stage. No such indications were made.

GW gave some examples of things that could be included in the Plan such as the shop, the pub, broadband, and pointed out that land use and buildings are not the only things. He then went on to introduce Geoff Botting from Woodcote who chaired their NP.

2. **GB** gave a detailed and **interesting talk about the Woodcote experience**. He showed examples of the final documents, talked about costs (particularly printing), leaflet drops, their referendum, consultancy fees, with a total amounting to c.£13000. He re-iterated that grants are available from SODC to help. He informed us that Woodcote had a group of c. 15 people, half of whom were deeply involved as they are retired. Moreover, he was keen to impart a sense that professionalism is important, good presentations and backing up all ideas with evidence. Additionally, keeping motivated by having regular meetings is essential. It seems that most of the Woodcote Plan had been based around housing and planning issues. After several questions from those present and answers from GB we moved on to discuss some of the issues within Ewelme which could be addressed:

- Housing and land use (Eyres Close, infill building, affordable housing for the young and those wanting to downsize, among others. Development areas have not yet been identified)
- Working from home

- Broadband
- Heritage/ the church/ school/ watercress beds/ value of being an AONB
- Tourism
- Parking/ traffic and speeding

It was agreed that these are important issues for THIS village but that we may not be able to tackle them all and that there may be others to be considered. **PC** pointed out that we have to identify what this village should look like/ provide in the future and work towards this. There was a debate about how to identify the important and salient issues e.g maintaining the vibrancy of the village/making it an attractive and affordable place for younger people to work and live.

3. Establishing a steering committee: the following agreed to take on the role of:

- **Chair:** Geoff Watts/ Sarah Maine jointly
- **Secretary:** Shirley Meyer

It was agreed that sub group leaders would step forward as the groups became established but the following agreed to assist: DS compiling reports/ gathering data; EC assembling data/AE gathering data/NB feeding in information from the past plan/AG drafting documents.

GW made it known that if insufficient people come forward to help, both he and SM are not prepared to take on the project.

It was also stressed that as many people as possible should be drawn into this process for two main reasons: so that the referendum will hold weight and that the village has ownership of the Plan.

4. Setting the designated area:

- There had been many maps and boundary images passed between parties since the last meeting and ideas were forthcoming which were duly discussed. These included: reducing the Parish boundary by exclusion of the part which is RAF Benson/ omission of the section beyond the B4009.
- **RM** thought it was important that inclusion/ exclusion of areas, particularly RAF Benson, should be decided by consultation with the village. He also thought there was clear guidance from SODC on this issue and will investigate this. **DC** stated that quite a large % population (around 30%) **DC** stated that quite a large % population of Ewelme lives on the two roads covered on the base and consultation is important. **MT-L** pointed out the importance of possibly having control over that section of land in the event of the base closing/ change of use.
- **A preliminary decision was made to include the whole Parish boundary area but the final agreement will be decided when RM feeds back.**

5. **Outline timeline for production of NP:** As time was getting on we briefly acknowledged the following important points:

- The need to set a budget.
- We have to submit a formal application to SODC.
- We need to decide the time frame within which to complete the process. Nine months had been suggested as the minimum time frame possible and by keeping the project 'simple' and using existing templates we hope this could be achieved.
- Rev.JM re-iterated importance of the brainstorming exercise -see below.
- Items 8.1/ 8.2 on the agenda were spoken of briefly and will need to be given more time at the next meeting.

Actions going forward: To proceed with the NP in detail, we need to agree on the key issues addressing the village. To focus the on what are they are it was requested that **ALL** participants send their top 10 ideas/ "wishlist" to Geoff Watts only via email (planewelme@gmail.com) by Monday 27th February. Geoff will put these into a spreadsheet ready for discussion at the next meeting. These will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Date of the next meeting: Monday 6th March at the Watercress Centre at 7.30pm

Please send apologies if unable to attend.