

WOOLER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Meeting Monday 12th September.

Those present : Robert Donkin Tom Johnston Pam Ratcliffe
Margaret Brown Lynne Pringle Patsy Healey
Sue Welch Bob Snooks Rosanna Reed
Sean Riley Michael Stanwix Alfreda Hindmarsh
Peter Rutherford

Apologies: Anthony Murray Derek Riley

1. Terms of Reference : Peter Rutherford explained these were a composition produced by the Steering Group which needs to be composed of a cross section of the Community in order to have as much input into the Plan as possible e.g. N.F.U., Chamber of Trade, youth group.
2. Website : there is a legal requirement for a website to be set up. There is a cost involved, £39 a month was suggested. The Parish Council has one on the Gateway Trust site but the N.P. one needs to be independent. The content of the site will need to be managed. It was suggested that a design/brand be given to prospective designers & would need to show a link both to Community & the P.C.
Wooler Drop – In have just completed their web-site with the help of Dave Sage (who recently moved out of the area) & the site also has a link to Facebook.
Lynne Pringle has viewed a really good website which has easy – to – understand content , evidence forms & is easy to navigate. She will circulate this to everyone.
3. The survey carried out by U3A – Sue Welch reported on the results & there is still work to be done on them. Points which became apparent were : a very positive community spirit – environment : location is special but spoilt by a lot of dereliction .
4. It was decided that it is imperative that the younger generation should be involved as it is their future we will be deciding upon. There is a need to get into schools, talk with young families. As we had representatives of ‘The Drop In Centre’ at the meeting it was requested that they did their own survey – it is the feelings of the 13 – 25 age group which need to be sought.
5. Bob Snooks asked Peter Rutherford, our Northumberland CC advisor, if County had any proposals to spend money in Wooler in the future. PR responded that at present there are no proposals for housing but using SHLAA proposals, which gives an indicative figure for future housing, there could be ‘clusters of development within the North Northumberland area. – The N.P. for Wooler needs to set out a realistic figures for future development.
B.S. suggested approaching people with land to see if they intended to develop – what constraints there are given that the Core Strategy document sets the figure at 14 houses per year.
Peter Rutherford reported that spending in County is going to get worse – there are major cutbacks in government money & money does have to be spent on schools,

roads & essential services. Any monies remaining is spent at the discretion of Members.

Patsy Healey suggested building up a project & to get County / Arch to develop. Devise a strategy – a Community Action Plan – to deliver investment in a new project. This would be part of both Capital & Revenue expenditure.

6. Working groups : Group website – Bob Snooks Margaret Brown

Core Strategy - Patsy Healy Lynne Pringle Sue Welch

Youth Group - Sean Riley Michael Stanwix

Enterprise - Margaret Brown Rob Donkin

7. It was suggested that we should work with the Schools – Mike Deane-Hall has said that at his last school the children did a young persons simplified N.P. Patsy & Alison Hilton are to work in the Middle School with Newcastle University & Liz Breckons in the Spring Term on this.

8. Any other business : It was agreed that we need to produce a simple project plan of what to do in the next 3 months. This needs to be realistic – the steering group needs to
1. Re-engage with the community 2. Need to stop drifting & get ahead with the plan.

9. At the next meeting we need to set a time frame & be disciplined & focussed on what is to happen.

10. The next meeting was set for Monday 31st October . 7.00 pm in the Cheviot Centre & Pam Ratcliffe has offered to be minute taker.