

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

MINUTES – Tuesday 16th December 2014

Present: David Boden, Hester James, Pauline Dolan, Paul Draycott, Jacquie Payne, Emily Whitehead

Visitors: Christine Leedham, Chris Leedham

Apologies – Tina Richardson, Vanessa White, Jenny Richardson, Simon Ratcliffe

1. Paul as chair advised his resignation due to work commitments. Jacquie informed the meeting that Tina Richardson was happy to step up as chair, and all other members will work to support her.
2. Two visitors were introduced to the Steering Group. Christine Leedham, who is the clerk of the Denstone parish council, and her husband Chris Leedham, who has been involved with the Marchington Neighbourhood Plan. Both visited to offer advice and direction regarding our next steps.
3. Chris Leedham suggested our next step should be to engage a planning consultant. He gave the contact details of Clive Keble who is an independent advisor who helped Marchington.
4. Christine Leedham, as Denstone Parish Clerk, advised that £5,000 has already been received in grants for the neighbourhood plan, and there is a £7000 planned grant application to be made in the 2015 year.
5. The Parish Profile was discussed and decided to be the next document to be produced. It was agreed that Christine Leedham would work on this in conjunction with the planning consultant, once engaged.
6. The group discussed how successful our initial delivery of questionnaires was. There had been a good response to the document, but in the interests of clarity, it was suggested that for future deliveries, every address in the parish be listed in an excel document, and each delivery person advises via email when they have completed their deliveries, which is then marked in the excel document.
7. Chris Leedham suggested a second planner be engaged at a later date for workshops. Marchington have used Bob Keith from Planning Aid England.
8. Chris Leedham advised that major businesses in the area should be kept informed of the activities of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. This would include JCB (as they have an approved building plan for offices at Denstone) and also Denstone College.
9. Christine Leedham offered to liaise with Mel from the Parish Council regarding a meeting in January 2015 with Graham Hunt to ensure the Stubwood Action Group is appraised of recent developments and that Stubwood Action Group can work with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to ensure no conflict of interest.
10. Pauline Dolan advised she had started to collate the information received from the questionnaires and agreed to continue with the collation.
11. Meeting closed at 8.55pm.