

3 MARCH 2015

DAWLISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Present:

Councillor Bloomfield
Councillor Clemens
Councillor Petherick
Councillor Prowse
Mrs C. Ballard
Mr C. Jeffery
Dr C. Marsh
Mr J. Simon
Ms F. Tullis
Mr M. Wrigley

Also present:

Mr A. McKenzie – Secretary
Mr P. Weston – Community Consultant & Regeneration Advisor

Note – these minutes will be approved at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting on Tuesday, 6 April 2015.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor M Swift and Mr C Swanwick

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2015 were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency.

5. PROJECT PLAN & TIMETABLE

The Project Plan & Timetable was noted.

6. CASE FOR LOCAL FOOD STRATEGY

Members considered a previously circulated report drafted by Dr Marsh concerning the case for a local food strategy. In presenting the report, Dr Marsh submitted that the Steering Group was one part of the process with other elements needing involvement from the local community so as to prevent too much information creating disengagement with the public. There was a need to construct a document that members of the public could relate to over the next 20 years in producing a neighbourhood plan worthy for their community. A local food strategy was identified in both national and local targets in an effort to reduce climate change such as increasing the availability of local allotments for home-grown produce.

During discussion, particular reference was made to:

- Allotments – Members considered that with increasing development the provision of allotments, where possible, should be included;
- Access to local suppliers – having access to local suppliers would further encourage locally sourced products; and
- Markets – reintroducing local markets at sites such as the Piazza would showcase local produce however this would need to be explored in terms of any restrictions enforced by the District Council as landowner.

The Chairman thanked Dr Marsh for her report and suggested she begin the process of establishing a working party to further explore a local food strategy.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

7. STATUTORY CONSULTEES

The Secretary advised that regulations stipulated that a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group needed to consult with some 50 plus organisations alerting them of the fact that the Town was attempting to establish a Neighbourhood Plan and invite any comments they might wish the Group to take into account when formulating the plan.

To date four responses had been received; these would be kept in a file at The Manor House should the Committee or members of the public and would be updated as and when further updates were received.

8. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Members were informed that financial updates were being prepared and would be circulated when available.

The Chairman advised of the need for a Finance Officer for the group who would monitor the Group's finances and plan for future needs of the Neighbourhood Plan as it developed. This would involve drafting a budget to include publications, exhibitions, leaflets amongst other items. They could if, if Members were minded to agree, take the lead on future grant funding applications.

Mr Jeffery submitted he would be happy to take on the role with guidance from Mr Weston.

Mr Weston advised that new grant funding would be available from 1 April which could be applied for once current grant monies had been expended. Having a budget in place would be crucial for future grant funding opportunities where levels of funds ranged from £1,000 to £8,000 towards the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved

That Mr C. Jeffery be appointed as the Financial Officer of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

9. LOCAL EVIDENCE GATHERING

Mrs Ballard updated Members as to the evidence gathering that had been undertaken by herself, Mr Swanwick and Mr Wrigley. She submitted they had not attempted to 'reinvent the wheel', noting the work of the previous Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which could be used and updated with new ideas being fed into that process.

A number of areas of interest included:

- Case for Dawlish Warren Coastal Park;
- Improving employment land provision;
- Protection of green open spaces;
- Public rights of way;
- Community facilities and
- Strategic environmental sustainability appraisal.

The Chairman thanked the group for their research. Mr Weston added that the task was to identify and summarise what was already known, test whether it was relevant or if it needed updating and then bring the results back to the April meeting of the Steering Group. From this, specific interest groups could be set up to investigate topics in greater details and in some cases with professional support.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

10. STEERING GROUP MEDIA AND PUBLICITY

The Secretary advised that the Steering Group's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts were now available and could be found by visiting the following:

Website: www.dawlish.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan.php

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dawlishnpsg; and

Twitter: www.twitter.com/dawlishnpsg

Resolved

That the update be noted.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 7 April 2015 at 7 p.m. in The Manor House, Dawlish.

COUNCILLOR ROSALIND PROWSE
CHAIRMAN