



WITHERLEY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP MINUTES

Minutes of a Meeting of The Steering Group held 7.30 pm on Monday, 8th January 2019 at Witherley Church.

Present

Kay Conway in The Chair (Witherley)
Brian Conway (Parish Council/Witherley)
Laura Dyer (Ratcliffe Culey)
Dayle Flude (Atterton)
Gary Kirk, Consultant (YourLocale)
Derek Ridgway, Treasurer (Fenny Drayton)
Mark Simpson (Fenny Drayton)
David Wilkins (Ratcliffe Culey)

1. Apologies for Absence

Helen Bullivant (Ratcliffe Culey)
Charlotte Ward Lewis (Witherley)

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes held on Tuesday, 30th October were agreed to be an accurate record of proceedings.

4. Financial Report

Derek Ridgway, Treasurer, will submit a detailed current statement of expenditure for consideration at the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Thursday, 10 January.

The Treasurer reported expenditure from the two grants received:

Parish Council Grant

Expenditure totalling £337.65. Leaving a balance of £632.35 from the original grant of £1,000.

Locality Grant

£3,300 had been spent on Consultancy Fees of the £4,300 received to date.

Future Funding

Gary Kirk will prepare a grant application to draw down £4,700 of remaining funding available from Locality. He reported 'Awards for All' had withdrawn funding for Neighbourhood

Development Planning. He stated he was confident Your Locale would be able to deliver the necessary consultancy support to complete the plan (originally estimated at £14,000-£15,000).

5. Household Survey

A Survey took place between November and December 2018. 616 households in the Parish received a paper questionnaire containing 33 questions based on important themes which had been identified at the Public and Stakeholder Engagement events. The questionnaire was hand delivered to all households. There was an option to complete online. Paper copies were collected by members of the Steering Group.

Gary Kirk presented the results:

339 responses had been received. This is representative of approximately 28.5% of the adult population (aged over 16). This is a far higher number of responses than YourLocale had seen from previous surveys

In addition, a Young People's survey, running concurrently, received 9 responses, broadening the age range of those contributing to the community evidence base.

This demonstrates a good level of commitment to the Neighbourhood Plan by the community and the results have revealed a set of clear concerns and preferences to steer development of the Plan, the wider community and the Parish Council.

Some highlights from the results:

- 98% of respondents agree or strongly agree that we should value and work towards preserving the natural landscape.
- Of great concern is the lack of a local shop, the volume and speed of traffic, the poor bus service, the lack of a pub (location specific), an increase in crime, poor pedestrian routes, poor broadband and mobile services, flooding and sewerage.
- If a need for additional housing in the Parish is necessary, there is a clear preference for smaller homes and ones specifically for local people. There is considerable support for new housing to use traditional building styles. However, also receiving majority support is innovative, eco-friendly design.
- 95% of respondents would welcome new business to the Parish with a strong preference for agricultural and farming based industry. Offices, light industrial and manufacturing, storage and distribution being supported by fewer than 10% of respondents.

There is a diversity of responses which merit further consideration as they offer a broad insight into the concerns of respondents.

6. What Happens Next

It was agreed that the results of the survey should be shared with members of the community and will be put on the Parish Council website and our Facebook page. Gary Kirk advised that the next move should be to hold a public meeting at which parishioners who had previously shown

interest, could be encouraged to take part in three Theme Groups on Housing, Environment and Sustainability, the last including community facilities, transport and economic growth. These groups would be led by expert consultants from YourLocale, to guide and advise, with a Steering Group member in each. The wider knowledge, experience and skills of parishioners is vital to collating evidence which will produce policies to be incorporated into the writing of the Plan. It was agreed that a date in the first week of March would be found.

7. Secretarial Support

It was agreed that a job description should be written up for the position of Secretary in preparation for the post being advertised more widely.

8. Any Other Business

The Chairman emphasised the need to develop the photographic record of the Parish. The Chairman urged members to add to the database of photographs.

9.. Date and Time of Future Meetings

7.30 pm Monday, 18th February – The Parish Room, Witherley

Public Engagement Event

Monday, 4th March – The Parish Room, Witherley – time to be advised