

Minutes of Middleton-on-the-Hill and Leysters Neighbourhood Plan meeting held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 19th January 2016

Present

Guy Griffiths – Chairman - GG
Martin Rees – Secretary -MR
Ian Culley – IC
Steph Forman –SF
Tom Merrick –TM
Neil Elwis –NE
Bill Summers –BS
Lynne Gore-LG

Actions

Apologies

Mike Davies-MD
Alex Millward –AM
Bryony John –BJ

Declarations of Interest

The Chairman asked the meeting if anyone had any declarations of interest to disclose. There were none.

Minutes

These were read and signed.

Matters Arising

NE reported that the Safer Road Partnership had completed a traffic survey of the A4112 through Leysters Village. The 85 percentage speed of traffic was 47 mph and a more detailed summary of the survey would follow. NE

GG reported that Ola had now installed a screen cast for use on the web site.

GG reported that the Parish Council had now received the grant of £1385.00 which was now in their bank account.

IC reported on the Community Survey he had received 59 replies which reflected between 35 and 40 percent of households and 40 percent of the population. He felt that this was a reasonable, robust response to the survey. A more detailed summary of the Community Survey responses is at Annex A.

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Vision

IC reported that between now and the Open Day, in March, we had to determine both a 'vision' and 'objectives' for our Plan. These would be similar in format to the "Marden Plan" which he had circulated prior to this meeting together with a proposed vision for our parish produced by BJ.

IC suggested that the Committee look at the vision and come up with 2 or 3 objectives for each of the categories below and forward these to IC prior to the next meeting.

Division of responsibility for this would be as follows;

Housing - IC,LG

Traffic and Transport - SD,SF,NE

Facilities and Community Assets - BJ

Landscapes and Environment – MD, IC

Broadband –TM

Drainage and Water Supply – BS, IC

Miscellaneous - GG

Next Steps

It was now time for the 'Call for Sites' from Landowners which would be carried out in the following ways;

- a) A request on the Parish web site,
- b) A flyer in the next Parish Magazine.
- c) Send a formal letter of request.
- d) Notices round the Parish
- e) Verbal communication.

IC
GG

IC advised the meeting that Transport was the main item from the survey. He proposed that we should request a comprehensive survey to be carried out by professional traffic consultants. This would cost in the region of £3000.00 to £4000.00. We would be able to request the funding to be included in the next grant application. IC said that he knew of a consultant who could attend our next meeting, and also be available at the open day in March, to explain the procedure.

Plans for 12th March Open Day

GG asked IC if it would be possible to have a presentation during the open day. IC said he would be prepared to have a question and answer session around 11.30am.

IC suggested we set out tables around the hall based on the vision/objectives which would hopefully initiate a two way conversation.

The open day would be from 10.30am until 3.00pm. Teas would be made available and LG kindly offered to arrange the provision of cakes.

LG

Any Other Business

There was none.

Date of next Meetings

The next meetings to be held at the Parish Hall at 7.30 on Monday 1st February 2016 and Monday 22nd February 2016.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Annex A

IC

Summary of Community Survey Responses by IC

59 completed survey forms were returned. These represented 56 households out of a total of 153 households in the two Parishes. This equates to a response rate of 37% which provides a sufficiently significant proportion of households to give the Steering Group the confidence that it is representative of the views of the whole community.

The age and household size of the survey responses is also consistent with the profile of the village – the majority of respondents being aged 50 and over, the average household size 2.3 people and the majority having lived in their current house for more than 10 years.

Key issues for the community were the unspoilt countryside, pleasant rural environment and having a say in local decisions.

Traffic was identified as the most significant issue which people dislike about living in the area and addressing this was the most popular improvement / change.

The most popular view on the scale of new housing in the area was that the current level of growth is about right. But a significant number of people would support additional growth if it would support new community facilities or for local people only.

The most popular strategy for the location of new housing is a focus on Leysters and Middleton on the Hill with some converted buildings outside the villages. For new development the most popular option was for small infill of 1-2 dwellings. The preferred

tenure was affordable owner occupied.

Of the three specific sites put forward in the survey form, the most popular was the field opposite the Parish Hall.

The priority community asset projects were the provision of extra parking at the Parish Hall, the retention of the village pub and post office and a new shop.

70% of responses were concerned with the speed of traffic through Leysters and 91% supported the use of automated signage to warn speeding vehicles. But only 35% supported the introduction of speed cameras.

Views were identified as the most important feature which makes up the character of the area, followed by trees and hedgerows and the network of fields.

Most people would prefer to see new buildings to be of traditional design and using local materials.

The most significant issue in terms of infrastructure was the need for improved broadband. 84% of responses supported additional telecommunications masts if this would improve mobile phone coverage.

There was widespread support for evening classes in the Parish Hall and for the churches being used for functions other than religious services. 98% of responses supported the building of a W.C. to serve Leysters Church.

There was some interest in outdoor community activities – the most popular being a garden competition or open gardens.