

NEIGHBOURHOOD & PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING 14th DECEMBER 2011

Report on the inaugural meeting of the Neighbourhood & Parish Plan Steering Group was held in the Garden Room at All Saints Church on Wednesday 14th December 2011 from 7pm.

Present: **Councillor** Aslam Javaid, **Councillor** Paul Fuller, **Messrs** Guy Boorman, Richard Cobden, Terry Nolan, **Mesdames** Trish Wray, Yvonne Ras and Rusty Adams (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Steve Dines & Carolyn Sibley.

Aslam Javaid welcomed all to the meeting, and it was reported that Gurnard Parish Council representatives will be Councillor Andy Longman and Richard Day (Cllr Day to be confirmed) – also that Parish Clerk Rusty Adams had been tasked with administering the Steering Group.

This was a general information meeting, at which discussion included:

- The pros and cons of including Parish Plan elements within a Neighbourhood Plan
- Steering Group membership
- Additional helpers for consultation exercises

A brief presentation was given of the process leading to the current Parish Plan, which also highlighted the features of a Parish Plan and a Neighbourhood Plan:

Parish Plan: Understand short, medium & long term aspirations of community on a whole raft of topics – results in an action plan which can be used as evidence of need for undertaking projects and accessing funding for the projects (eg: Play Area) – this has formed the basis of all the Community Projects Committee's work since 2006.

Neighbourhood Plan: This is new and stems from the new Localism Act - some details have come out and more is coming out since the Bill received Royal Assent recently, almost on a daily basis! If no Neighbourhood Plan is produced, then all development will be totally at the mercy of the Island Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework, with no local input.

- Where there is a Parish or Town Council, they must lead
- Where there is No Parish/Town Council, a Neighbourhood Forum must be set up
- Local community must be fully engaged
- Plan must be endorsed by local community
- Plan enables the “shaping & design” of future development, NOT the stopping of it
- Plan must be compliant with other National and Local Plans
- Town & Country Planning Association can offer advice
- 2/3 Parishes can work together on one plan
- Assistance is available from “Action for Market Towns” website
- It will be at least a 12 to 18 month process, more probably a 2 year process

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- Rumours of costs are scary, but what are these costs based upon? (HM Government pilot schemes still running – more details later)
- Village Design Statement or Parish Plan can be incorporated into Neighbourhood Plan – subject to same scrutiny though

Steering Group MUST identify what needs to be in the Plan, such as:

- New homes/development
- Type & mix of new homes/development
- Where development should take place
- Provision for young and elderly
- Recreational facilities
- Community Centre
- Transport
- Shop/s
- Employment opportunities

Probable Process:

Getting started:

- Get community “on board”
- Create a Steering Group
- Produce a plan development programme
- Develop a communication strategy

Develop a vision & objectives:

- Gather information
- Define the area
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of area
- Draft vision & objectives (including Plan contents)
- Constantly monitor compliance with Island Plan and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Confirm draft vision & objectives with community

Develop the Plan:

- Develop policies
- Develop a programme to implement the plan
- Create and finalise a 1st draft of the Plan
- Check for conformity with other plans
- Check draft plan with community & other stakeholders

Independent Examination:

- Submit to IW Council
- Appoint examiner
- Publish examiner’s report

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Referendum:

- IW Council arranges local referendum

Adoption:

- If referendum has met support criteria, Plan is adopted by IW Council

The meeting drew to a close with the intention to meet again in the New Year, hopefully with the attendance of Wendy Perera or a colleague from IW Council Planning Policy to give some initial guidance and further information.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.