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GURNARD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report on the meeting held with the IW Council at Seaclose Park in Newport on Tuesday 6th August 2013 from 2pm.

Present:

Gurnard: Richard Day & Rusty Adams. **IW Council:** Wendy Perera & Bill Murphy.

Purpose of Meeting:

The aim of the meeting was to give an update on progress made so far, to get a better understanding of the project completion date, to hold a question and answer session and to identify where we could work together more closely.

Update

Richard & Rusty gave a brief update on progress made so far, where we are now and also to flag up any challenges we currently have and this included the following:

We have a very proactive and enthusiastic Steering Group of 15 people from a wide cross-section of the community, and also we have a list of 31 other people we can call upon to assist with delivering, collecting and helping out at events and exhibitions.

The Steering Group has met formally 22 times since our 1st explorative meeting in December 2011, and focus groups have also been set up to look more closely at 4 key areas:

- Social Wellbeing and Community
- Regeneration, Economy and Tourism
- Buildings & Development
- Environment

These are manned by some Steering Group members and other helpers with particular interests in these areas, and meet separately from the Steering Group.

Achievements to date are:

- A consultant was appointed early on, who attends most meetings and will be producing the final plan document for us.
- Dedicated website for the N/Hood Plan set up – also one page on GPC website dedicated to the Plan, linked to the N/Hood Plan website
- Visits have been made to nearly all community groups to promote the Plan – just a couple of groups still outstanding at the moment but a current challenge is liaising with landowners and prospective developers
- Public meeting 17/5/12 – this was to promote the H/Hood Plan project and nearly 100 people attended

- All SHLAA sites were visited on 11/6/12, and there has been periodic liaison through with Ollie Boulter, Peter Griffiths and Wendy Perera.
- Initial General Survey carried out summer 2012 – 40% response and this was completely carried out and analysed in house during the autumn 2012. The results were posted on the website in February 2013.
- Public Meeting 29/11/12 – this was to follow up on the initial general survey with indicative results and to seek help with the Focus Group work – not well attended, only about 40 people which we put down to there not being a high enough profile in the Village beforehand
- Attended large May Queen event in May 2012 to promote the Plan – lots of interest
- Attended school community event to promote the Plan December 2012 – much interest
- Work started in earnest on the format for the N/ Needs Survey in January 2013
- 3rd public meeting took place on 21st March 2013 to promote the H/Needs Survey – well attended with just short of 100 people present – the profile of this meeting was much increased beforehand.
- Attended large May Queen event in May 2013 to promote the Plan – not as many visitors as in 2012
- H/Needs Survey was launched in April/May 2013 and returns were possible on-line, collected locally and by Freepost. Freepost proved very popular, and prompting the return of the forms was heavily profiled during May – all this resulted in a great response of 52%, rising to 63% if you factor out 2nd homes.

Current activity is:

- RTPI planning consultant was appointed in July 2013, which will hopefully enable access to the Locality funding stream and she will be working on the policies and formatting the Plan.
- GPC wishes to work towards the H/Needs Survey report being adopted as a policy document in its own right – to this end Justin Gardener Consultants have been appointed to produce this – this is the company that produced the Wootton Bridge survey report and a meeting is set up with the consultant in Gurnard for 7/8/13.
- The Steering Group is holding a couple of workshops working towards staging a “Real Time Planning” event in September – this will be a hands-on exhibition, with some of it being modelled on the well proven Planning for Real model. We are especially working on young people and family involvement in this.
- Future public engagement - the Steering Group plans to attend the Harvest Festival Event on 21/9/13 on Tuttons Hill field – this will be further promotion of the project and to update on progress.

Other matters

Other comments were made and questions were asked which included:

- IW Council view of the neighbourhood planning process – very positive and will be a great planning asset, provided the proper processes are being followed
- Getting landowners & developers on board – seems to be a challenge with all the other 3 groups – it was felt that if they could be identified and “got around a table”, some positives could be forthcoming especially if the right attitudes were adopted by all parties! Paul Fuller & Peter Griffiths have been asked to assist with identification.
- How the current SHLAA sites are viewed by the public – the Gurnard tour of sites was discussed, and the work involved in freshly assessing them has been completed by the Planning Policy team. The new “County Hall Administration” has not seen the results yet, but will do so before the results go out to formal MVAAP consultation. No new sites have been added or removed, but some have been downgraded in terms of capacity.

- Green Gaps – we were asked if we were formally consulting on this, and it was explained that 2 focus groups would cover this, but it hadn't been flagged up as a separate consultation point yet, - perhaps it should be – obviously the settlement boundary is a factor in this too. The IW Council would be keen to assist in defining these gaps as it will confirm the green gap areas proposed for the MVAAP.
- Real Time Planning Event – the IW Council was invited to attend one or both of the days, and there was enthusiasm to be part of it. Apart from showing how the N/Hood Plan integrates into the Core Strategy and the Medina Valley Area Action Plan, they felt this could be a good opportunity to work towards defining the green gap areas too. They will confirm later on – unfortunately Wendy is away then!
- Final Draft Plan – a timescale was being sought for this stage of the project – the IW Council needs to know if this will fall in their 2013/2014 or 2014/2015 budget. It was explained it was difficult to be confident on this at the moment – we are still waiting for figures and timescales from the consultant and of course the draft needs to be floated past the IW Council before it becomes the subject of local consultation at our open day. It was suggested that their costs for this would more than likely fall within the 2014/2015 budget, and hopefully the referendum could coincide with the European elections in May 2014 (this would not only keep costs down but also encourage a greater local turnout at the poll). This will be confirmed once the consultant is up and running on the project.
- Housing Needs Survey – it was asked how we get this adopted as a planning document in its own right – it was explained that once completed it should be sent to Wendy, who would check it complies and covers all it should do. Once this is confirmed as OK, Wendy will recommend to Bill Murphy that it is adopted – it is as simple as that, after which it will be taken into account with every planning application determination.
- Policies – (See Planning Advisory Service website for templates) it was asked what formal policies are required with the Plan, and all that was mentioned was Sustainability Assessment & Equality Impact Assessment. A Habitat Regulations Assessment is only required for a certain number of units. It was explained that this would not be an issue “inland” in Gurnard, but might be for coastal areas. What is more likely is that a cumulative impact assessment may be required, which the IW Council will be doing anyway. To be confirmed later on, once the survey is analysed/plan completed. **Wendy will send a template produced by Dawn to Rusty a.s.a.p..**
- Settlement Boundary – it was emphasised that, due to a request from the IW Council, Gurnard PC selected option 3 of the 4 options put on the table by Ollie Boulter. As with all 4 options this basically put all Gurnard Parish outside the Key Regeneration Settlement Area, meaning that no sites would be “within or adjacent to” the settlement boundary, meaning that all future development would be based on policy and identified need. The reason no feedback has been received yet is that this option has to be formally consulted upon as part of the MVAAP processes, and also Wendy needs to check with “Legal” if this could also feature in the N/Hood Plan. If so, this can be consulted upon at the same time as the final plan.

The meeting closed at 3.35pm