



MR J.R. ADAMS MILCM
GURNARD PARISH CLERK
63, WELLINGTON ROAD
RYDE
PO33 3QJ
01983 567522
GURNARDPC@TISCALI.CO.UK



GURNARD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report on the 21st meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, held at Gurnard Village Hall on Thursday 4th July 2013 from 7pm.

Present:

Councillors Mark McNeil, Terry Nolan & Paul Fuller, **Messrs** Guy Boorman, Greg Malone, Bede Townsend, Richard Day, Carl Blenkinsop, Jon Pearson, Joss Bleriot, Richard Cobden, David Green & Graham Macdonald (Eco-Island), **Madame** Emma Stevens. Also Miles Seymour (Consultant) & Rusty Adams (Parish Clerk).

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Aslam Javaid.

Presentation and Q & A Session

David Green gave a brief presentation on how the Eco-Island project was progressing, and spent some time looking at where Gurnard's Plan should and could fit into the bigger picture. David said Gurnard was an inspiration, and he uses the Village as a prime example in other scenarios. The presentation was wide ranging on eco-issues which included water, power shortages, renewable opportunities, doing more with less, living within our means, community interest companies and the Eco Island infrastructure including a brand new cooperative initiative (savings shared in the community, rather than a switching scheme). Technology is a huge factor which includes solar, tidal, PV to water – this is going well on the Island with more planned, up to 60 Megawatt soon, and hoping to keep the benefits local through an SSE switching gear system. The 1st tidal scheme will be ready in Yarmouth soon, but hydrogen re-fueler and waste energy progress is slower. Further grant applications are being investigated, looking for £100M for home energy installations - he referred to the Chale scheme where systems are retrofitted, with only 50% of costs going to residents, but bills are down by 75%! Graham Macdonald is here for the Green Deal Scheme, and energy companies have funds available (£200M from SSE), which can be used for a wide range of energy saving ideas including external cladding and information needs to be spread in the community how to access this and how to qualify. Home Energy Management Systems (HEMS) can result in 20% to 26% savings at home – it switches to renewable energy when it is needed.

He then went on to explain the Cooperative Energy Model in more detail (which he had only finalised in London that day). This drives the energy costs down, with savings forming a "dividend" (standing charges will still apply though), but initial savings should be in the 20% to 25% range, and the contract will be protected leading eventually, perhaps, to a prices being fixed for 3 year periods. Voltage control (V-Phase) needs professional fitting, but it is envisaged that long term savings could eventually reach 50%. There are talks with gas companies to as the HEMS works on boilers too.

Questions & comments followed, especially as to how to incorporate some of these ideas into the N/Hood Plan:

- Look at the overall Gurnard energy footprint
- Look at how the current footprint could be offset (Solar on buildings?)
- Look at the net effect of eco-building

- Should NOT be too off-putting for developers (cost implication that is)
- Set some targets, listing the options available
- David happy to sit down with 2/3 Steering Group members to look at this, at “community level”
- David happy to locally launch the “cooperative” initiative at our September “Real Time Planning & Open Forum” event
- The cooperative could be ready to go this year
- The IW can be energy self-sustaining!

Matters Arising from 6/6/13

Gurnard News:

An entry is in the 2 month July/August edition of Gurnard News to profile the Real Time Planning & open forum event in September, together with thanking the H/Needs Survey respondents and giving an indication of response percentages.

Village Consultation - Housing Needs Survey

Analysis Process

An update was given as to progress made with analyzing the results, and 435 sheets have been processed so far but it is not completed yet. Comments made are mostly being quoted verbatim, and **it was agreed this was the best way forward**. Several people hadn't answered the 1st question about this being their main residence!

Meeting with Peter Griffiths 27/6/13

Steering Group members met with Peter Griffiths on 27/6/13 to broadly discuss the analysis process, and there was discussion about the acceptable format of the final survey report – Bembridge's has not been accepted but Wootton Bridge's has. **It was agreed the Wootton Model should be used, but that some basic number crunching” results were needed a.s.a.p.** There is still the “natural move” issues to factor in to housing stock, and apparently there are 55 housing units approved in the Village but not yet built. Current housing growth appears to be very similar to that as was between the last 2 Census exercises.

Real Time Planning Data as Secondary Data

There was no time to discuss this issue.

Additional Resources for Analysis Process

Whilst the early work is being dealt with “in house”, the possible need for some professional assistance with the final report was mentioned and **it was agreed to ask the Parish Council to make contact with the company that produced the Wootton report to see if it could assist us, and fairly promptly (by 30/7/13) with the basic number crunching results, and completing the full report until later**. We shall know by 17th/18th July if the 44 Worsley Road application will be on the 30/7/13 IWC Planning Meeting agenda for 30/7/13.

Premature Planning Application Approvals

There was a detailed discussion on the implications of the recent news received that the “land adjacent to 44 Worsley Road” planning application has been recommended for approval, and which could go to committee on 30/7/13. This included news that now it seems local evidence of need is not the sole factor, which was a source of some frustration in view of the previous understanding given by planning policy officers and planning case officers, with not a little concern that the Steering Group's credibility was now on the line.

The Steering Group also considered a response to the news which included how to convince the IWC Planning Committee the application should be refused using past evidence of public concerns, the initial results from the general survey, trying to use information from the new housing needs survey and highlighting the fact that the housing report with the application is NOT a housing needs survey.

It was agreed:

- **To ask the Parish Council to attempt to recruit a planning consultant to speak at the IW Council planning meeting on the Parish Council's behalf**
- **To e-mail all Village N/Hood Plan supporters asking them to make contact with IW Council planning committee members to express concern about the lack of housing need evidence**
- **That the Steering Group would also lobby the IW Council planning committee members to express concern about the lack of housing need evidence – Guy will produce a 1st draft for the next Steering Group meeting**
- **To progress the number crunching part of the housing needs survey a.s.a.p..**
- **To postpone the rest of the agenda until the next meeting**

Next Meeting

Thursday 18th July 2013 – 7pm (Venue to be confirmed)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm