

## **Notes of the Community & Health Working Group**

**Meeting held Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 1 p.m. in the Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, Jon Sidey, David Hudson, Cllr H L Jackson, Irene Hawkins

**1. APOLOGIES:** No Apologies

**2. PURPOSE**

It was agreed that the purpose of this group is to look at the issues, priorities and actions and then feedback to the Steering group. Unfortunately due to time restrictions it was agreed that this meeting we would have to focus on community facilities.

**3. NEED**

Some of the comments received via the community survey are summarised below although this is not extensive:

Perceived lack of youth facilities/clubs.

Cost of facilities.

Difficulty of booking facilities.

We discussed our brief and concluded that we should be looking at what existing facilities we already have in the town (and locally) and what short fall if any there was and whether the facilities and groups in the Town were well used or used to their full potential.

A list of the facilities was noted including a number of community halls available to hire. It was also noted however that each of these halls had some limitations if not just in the difficulty of booking. Various clubs and youth groups use a number of different buildings in the Town. The Ferrers School was identified as a building that had facilities that could meet community needs including sports facilities, rooms, halls and staging. These facilities are already partly used in the evening. Obviously full use would be disrupted by school use.

**4. ACTION PLAN**

Short term is was agreed that we should promote what the Town already offers in terms of community halls, clubs, groups etc informing people of where they are, when they meet, costs involved and contact details. This information would need to be continually updated but would be a very useful source of information. This could be publicised via a Higham Ferrers Community web site, Notice Boards, Nene Valley News etc.

The second part of the action plan would be to identify the need for a common community facility, where and what it should be, how much it would cost, funding and management of such a facility. It was agreed this would have to be a considered at the next meeting together with the Health facilities/needs.

**5. TIMETABLE**

To implement the short term goal of listing the available facilities/clubs/groups etc asap.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

During the meeting of the Steering Group Sandra Mitcham advised that the Methodist Church was being valued and by the end of March the Council should know the future of the building. The Community Group should look at what might be contained in the building if it was to become a community development.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 1 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Note that a list of the present facilities is attached to these minutes although this is not extensive and needs to include or clubs and groups. Members of the Steering Group are welcome to contribute to this List.