

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 14th JANUARY 2014 IN THE SPORTS PAVILION

Present: Nigel Cheetham (Chairman), Robert Savage (H & T Chairman), Cllr Bert Jackson (Community Chair), Philip Toogood (Vice Chairman and Project Manager), Irene Hawkins (EE&T Chair), Barry Prigmore (Development Chairman), David Hudson, Cllr Derek Lawson MBE, Cllr G Whiting, Cllr Mrs P Whiting and Sandra Mitcham (Town Clerk).

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Jon Sidey, Cllr A Dunn, Cllr Mrs A Sauntson and Lisa Craven- Quantrell.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 12th November 2013.** These were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- Sandra and Philip had attended a meeting with James in December to discuss housing numbers and Rushden East. Subsequent to that meeting it had been confirmed that the Town Council had 1 seat with a substitute on the Rushden East Board.
- The Workshop had been held on 12th December 2013 and was felt to be very useful.
- Cllr Derek Lawson reported on the meeting that had been held with the Education Authority on 13th January. The notes from the meeting would be circulated. A meeting had now been arranged with the Ferrers School, as this was now an Academy it was not under the governance of the LEA and received its own funding direct from government.
- Irene Hawkins had not yet managed to speak to Jon Sidey/Simon Wiles about the Business Forum. **Action: Irene**
- Community Speedwatch- Nothing to report. Philip would attend the TASH Meeting.
- Instead of a pop up shop a Heritage Centre was being discussed by Tourism.
- Surgery Forum was due to meet 16th January.

3. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.**

3.1 *PM Report and Discussion .*

Philip circulated copies of his report. There had been a slow start to task 23. The Team Leaders had met and all groups now had their work packages with the aim of finishing these by middle of March. The aim was still to be at Referendum stage by November.

Philip confirmed he had set up meetings with HiFARS and the Chichele Society for the Heritage section. Where there was overlap between teams, Team Leaders were getting together to discuss these.

Sandra circulated to the Team Leaders a document which she had put together. It included policies from other plans which may be relevant to Higham.

Philip raised an issue re status of evidence documents. He was concerned that it may not be relevant if it was not adopted. In her opinion Sandra felt that Team Leaders should not get too concerned as James will advise. Often there is research/ evidence documents which have been put together to evidence the adopted documents and so they do have relevance.

4. **COMMUNITY PLAN.**

There was little to report as the teams had been concentrating on work themes from the Neighbourhood Plan.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The group agreed to support a letter to Peter Bone MP from the steering group to back the Chowns Mill campaign. A draft to be circulated prior to dispatch. **Action: Nigel**

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 11th February 2014 and 18th March 2014- 6pm in the Town Hall **Action: SG**