

Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan

Notes of Steering Group Meeting

Held on 20th March 2018 at 7.30 pm at Broomfield Village Hall

Present: John Blake, Sue Hubble, Peter Marriage, Duncan Coles
David Howell, Angela Thomson, Karen Hurrell

276. Apologies for absence: Les Steed, Geof Garwood

277. Declarations of Interest: None

278. To approve Notes of the meeting held on 20th February 2018 – Approved

279. Comments from Parish Council Planning Committee

No comments made.

280. Finance Report

No movement since last meeting. The new Neighbourhood Planning Grant application form and Guidance Notes have now been rolled out and show that funding of £9,000 may be applied for plus an additional £8,000 in certain circumstances up to £17,000; the criteria of which the NP is likely to meet. SH to check further. Approximately £5,000 has already been spent.

281. Presentation Evening – 23 May 2018

A sheet was circulated showing proposals from the Working Group. In discussion, it was agreed that the title “Presentation Evening” did not fully represent what we hoped to display to residents and “Evening to present results of Your Village Has Spoken and What YOU Said” or along those lines may be better.

The possibility of “Crowd Funding” was also discussed. Residents may want to help to purchase a certain parcel of land for the village; which may in the future be put into a Trust. It must be made clear that owners of such parcels of land may not wish to sell. In the first instance it would be just putting out “feelers” and only afterwards, if acceptable, would owners of land be approached, preferably via an agent.

The Working Group were thanked for their hard work to date preparing for this event.

282. Update re Cycle Path routes and Traffic Reduction Measures

The Viability Testing Meeting had just taken place that morning, so a verbal report was given.

3 officers from Essex Highways had attended to meet with the Steering Group rep.s to begin the process of testing the viability of the suggested cycle path routes and the other possible traffic reduction measures (including those supported in the residents’ questionnaire). The meeting was followed by a walk along the suggested cycle path routes.

The main points from the meeting were:

- the timescale for spending the existing growth package money is very tight, so it is unlikely that the currently agreed schemes could be added to. This position was expected and SG rep.s emphasised that our aim at this stage was to test viability rather than secure funding
- that said, officers were very positive about the enthusiasm shown in the residents' questionnaire for new cycle paths (e.g. 95% of responses wanting efforts to achieve them to continue). It was clear that the results of the questionnaire and the NP Issues and Options proposals fitted with the policy objectives of the highways authority.
- due to time, most of the discussion centred on cycle paths but the other suggested traffic reduction measures were summarised and the highways officers undertook to discuss both with their relevant colleagues
- SG rep.s explained that we want to have an idea of what measures are feasible so that these can be shared with residents at the presentation evening in late May. We want to get residents' feedback in more detail and we wish to avoid creating interest in things that aren't technically feasible. The officers will make a response in time for us to prepare material for the presentation evening.

The cycle path walk was also positive. Known obstacles were noted and discussed but none seemed unsurmountable at this stage.

283. Update on Chelmsford Local Plan

The Steering Group's representation to the recent Local Plan Consultation was noted. The Local Plan proposals for Broomfield were briefly discussed.

284. Use of Consultants

Three recommended consultant companies were approached and Ian Poole of Places4People Planning Consultancy came back with a quote of £7,650. It was agreed that from his Proposal it appeared that he would be a suitable candidate to carry out the work. SG members all agreed that we proceed with appointing Ian Poole subject to meeting with him in the first instance, preferably before the next Planning Committee meeting. Also, he may be able to advise whether we should employ a landscape consultant or whether this is something he could help with; and whether it would be beneficial if students helped him with undertaking some of the ground work?

285. Students – Research Work

SH said she had not contacted Nezhapi O'delleye to ascertain whether students would be able to carry out any of the research work, as she was unclear as to what areas the students would be able to help. It was agreed that when the consultant is hired, the question will be raised as to whether students could help him with the ground work and if so, what areas.

286. Questions and Quizzes

KH was thanked for continuing to add questions and answers on the PC website. SH said she would try to “share” these with the Broomfield & Waltham FB Group.

287. AOB

It was noted that Community-led Housing Group were holding a Launch Event on 3 May 2018 at 7 pm at Anglia Ruskin University and are all are invited to attend. JB said he would attend.

288. Next Agenda Items

Finance Budget - Grant

289. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 10 April at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

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