

Meriden Parish Appraisal Plan Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting 9 March 2009

1. Present: Iain Roxburgh, Tessa Roxburgh, Paul Blewitt, Sharon Tuersley, Ian Tuersley, Rosie Weaver, Julie Hall, Clive Jones

2. Apologies: Liz Willis, Mel Lee, Paul Lee, Linda Neale

3. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising:

- Presentation to partners (26/01/09)– Iain emailed all the members present their ‘commitments’ but will check with Julie on who attended the event so we can compile a list of contacts
- Iain will compile a list of SMBC contacts for the Theme Groups to use
- Funding application – Rosie has costed everything except the Hearing Loop but all the forms are ready to be sent.
- Raw Data – Ian T would like people to consider the questions they want answering in order to interrogate the raw data effectively. A meeting to analyse the questions has been arranged for 30 March 2009 @ 7:30pm in Rosie’s house.

5. Achievements:

- Young people’s project – Kevin Hunt took delivery of a Youth Opportunity fund £3000 cheque from Solihull’s Youth Service. This is to support the youth initiatives with the church.
- Rosie and Julie are meeting with Meriden children to discover what play equipment they would like in the new playing field development
- The south pavement to Fillongley Road has been identified for priority repair in SMBC’s 2010 budget

6. Theme Group’s Progress:

- Children and Young People – the group has met twice, once with Tracy Bryant, a coordinator from South Solihull who promotes youth services. She has been in touch with Kevin Hunt and is liaising with him about events for young people in the Methodist Church hall.
Julie has completed an audit of all Parish’s assets that can be used by young people
Rosie has been working on the Youth Parliament, there has been good support from Jackie Smith at the Meriden School.
Tessa has an interview with the Heart of England’s Head Teacher to explore working with the school and with the children to provide space, events etc. Although it was acknowledged that transport is a key issue to accessibility.

- Older People – Tessa has contacted Age Concern to explore what services they offer in Meriden Parish, what they could offer in the future and also what we could offer them.
Iain, Rosie and Julie attended a meeting held by Sustain, a 3rd sector voluntary community organisation. Most people who attended were from specialist organisations including charities etc. It was suggested that we could pass on key community contacts to them in order for these specialised organisations to be able to deliver their services more effectively. Rosie has invited the CEO of Sustain to the Solihull Area Committee.
- Community & Environment – Paul and Ian T attended the festival meeting but the chair of the festival committee did not attend. Ian T has since been given a contact from Barston who organises their annual fete.
Julie attended the Police Priority Setting meeting but the key people did not attend. Residents did talk about anti-social behaviour and much of the meeting focussed on how to report incidents.
- Planning & Transport – Iain intends speaking to Solihull's housing strategy and housing delivery people on what their eligibility criteria are for affordable housing.
Rosie has been investigating how we can agree local allocation policies. She also raised the issue of a meeting about housing demand and the local Development Plan where a company called Ecotec have been employed to send out a survey that has very similar questions to ours. Iain suggested that a cover note be added to the Ecotec survey so that it links to ours and also to send them an electronic copy of our survey.
Iain is also looking at planning guidance to see if is compatible with the desires of the Parish.
Transport – Iain intends to get back in touch with the contact from Centro. He is also following up with the Taxibus to determine the capacity constraints.
There is lots of information on Road Safety and more information is needed from ROSPA.
The Parish Council have had a meeting with Emily Walsh from Solihull Transport who intimated that she would look at the transport situation of Meriden holistically.
A further meeting has been set up with Street Care. Iain asked if Julie or Rosie could supply the contacts

7. Parish Plan:

- Publication and design – Iain asked if the group knew of any local person/company that could help with this. Paul B knows of someone and will follow it up.
- 15 April is the Parish Council AGM and it was suggested that as a forum for consulting on the form that the Parish Plan should take. It was agreed that the theme groups should have the key proposals ready for end of March.

8. Publicity:

- A Spring newsletter should be designed, printed and distributed in time to advertise the Parish Council AGM on 15 April

- The next edition of the Meriden Mag would be a good opportunity to float the Draft of the Parish Plan

9. AOB:

- Playing fields – nothing further has happened since the update in the last copy of the Meriden Mag.

10. Next Meeting: Thursday 30 April 2009 @ 7:30pm in the Heart of England club

(Paul Blewitt sends apologies)