



Minutes of Twyford Village Partnership Meeting Thursday 19th June 2008

Present: Josephine Blythe (Chair), Christian Wrigley (Vice-chair), Kathy Peck (Secretary), Sue Goddard, Amanda West, Jennifer Hay, Lorna Minton, Paul Minton, Anne Pinnock, Cedric Gilson, Tim Palmer (CCB), Geoff Pugh, Audrey Curtis, Bobbie Crickmore, Simon Howard, David Hymers (TPC), Duncan Edwards, Andy Nicholls (WBC), Geoff Pilgrim, Gill Main, David Main, Hazel Evans, Rick Sinfield, Simon Turton, Andy Barden, Anne Morris, Sylvia Collins, Patrick Heather, Stephen Conway (from item 5).

Apologies: Hilary Winter, Amanda Harper, Lyn Buddell, Emma Hobbs.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves, and Josephine Blythe highlighted the importance of community involvement and that members of local groups can help by keeping their members up to date and getting them involved.

2. **Review of the meeting held 3rd April 2008** - minutes agreed and signed.

3. Vacant Posts: Financial Officer

Cedric Gilson and Verne Magnusson will provide more information for a lady who came forward at the Donkey Derby and may be interested in taking on this role.

4. Working Groups Reports

Executive Officers – Christian Wrigley reported that Duncan Edwards, manager of Waitrose Twyford, had agreed to become an executive officer.

Constitution – Kathy Peck reported that the group had become a member of the Civic Trust to benefit from their model constitution. However small amendments need to be made and Kathy asked for volunteers to help work through the details so a recommendation could be made at the next full meeting. Duncan Edwards volunteered at the meeting and it is hoped that more volunteers will come forward via e-mail.

Special Events Committee – Geoff Pilgrim reported that plans for this year's Christmas Fayre are already under way. The event will be held on Friday 5th December (6-9pm) with more stalls, more entertainment and more electrical lighting effects. We rely on the weather but the general aim is to bring the community together.

Friends of Twyford Library – Christian Wrigley reported that she and Stephen Conway had met with Susan Law (Chief Executive at WBC) and she was well informed of the issues regarding library provision in Twyford. David Hymers reported that members of Twyford Parish Council had also met with Susan Law to discuss the library issue and that Paul Turrell (Deputy Chief Executive at WBC) was preparing a report that would be discussed at a further meeting scheduled for the end of June.

Youth – Skate Park – Cedric Gilson reported that construction work was behind schedule due to heavy rain and problems with levelling the tarmac surface. Due to increased costs for handling contaminated waste, there will be a delay in installing the lighting. Cables will be laid and the CCTV will be installed but more money needs to be found to cover the installation of the lighting columns. The young people will be involved in planning an opening ceremony; however the facilities need to pass a safety check before they can be opened for use.

Parish Plan – Snapshot – Sue Goddard reported that the list of basic facts about Twyford (the 'snapshot') was almost complete. The data covers a range of topics, for example Twyford has 21 listed buildings, low unemployment, residents are well educated and this is not a deprived area. Twyford has higher house prices than the national average but slightly cheaper than the average for Wokingham Borough. Sue has spoken to Jane Ireland (WBC) who has offered to come and talk to the group about how Village Design Statements (VDS) can slot into supplementary planning documents and become adopted by WBC. It is best to consult about the VDS at the same time as the Parish Plan to avoid deluging residents with too many questionnaires. Barkham have done a VDS which can be viewed at: www.wokingham.gov.uk/index.asp?pgid=27322

Parish Plan – Feedback from Launch at Donkey Derby – Under the heading 'What do you like about Twyford?' the main themes were: nice village atmosphere, community spirit, good schools, community events and good access to London. There were 41 stickers about the Library. Responses under the other headings were discussed under item 5 below. A full list of responses can be found on our website: www.twyfordvillage.com

5. Tim Palmer – The next steps for the Parish Plan Process

Tim reported that Sue had done an excellent job preparing the Snapshot data and agreed that the worksheets needed to be divided up (and the least relevant ones removed altogether) to make the task more manageable. Tim explained that the next step was to establish working groups to tackle each of the 4 topics; social issues,

environment, economy and traffic & travel. The leaders from each of these working groups would join with some of the executive officers, Sue Goddard, and others with skills to contribute, to form a steering group. The working groups will need to make contact with existing groups and organisations in Twyford who may have an interest in the relevant areas to ensure we get community involvement.

Working Group: Social & Community Issues

Feedback from the launch covered topics such as greater police presence, anti-social behaviour and the issue of the play park at Broad Hinton. David Hymers reported that Twyford is a relatively low-crime area which explains the low Police presence. Duncan Edwards pointed out that it is a question of perception and remarked that Twyford is a lovely place to work as it does not suffer from some of the problems that other areas experience. Tim Palmer advised that grants were available for groups to set up a Community Cinema (e.g. in Loddon Hall).

Members from the meeting: Geoff Pilgrim, Andy Nicholls, Paul Minton, Sue Goddard

Working Group: Environment

Responses at the launch covered recycling and bin collections, aircraft noise and suggested improvements to the centre of Twyford. David Hymers reported that the Parish Council had organised a litter pick for June 10th at 10am at Loddon Hall and invited people to attend. He also asked if the group would look into the issue of becoming a plastic-bag free village as this had been raised at a Parish Council meeting. He advised the group that the area outside Simmons & Lawrence belonged to a property agency and was not public property, it is therefore difficult to get them to undertake any maintenance in that area.

Members from the meeting: Amanda West, Patrick Heather, Christian Wrigley

Working Group: Economy

Responses at the launch requested a greater variety of shops and the JW Greens site among other things. Stephen Conway pointed out that there is no legal way of controlling which shops come into the village, it is market-driven, and as planning permission is given to the 'use class' they would need to re-apply to change the use of the premises.

Members from the meeting: Duncan Edwards, Tim Palmer, Andy Nicholls, Stephen Conway

Working group: Traffic & Travel

Responses covered the themes of speeding, parking, changes to roads, trains, buses and cycle paths. These issues are raised regularly at Parish Council meetings and it is hoped that Parish Councillors will come forward for this group. It was also suggested that Jim the lollipop man be consulted.

Members from the meeting: Patrick Heather (trains)

Note: Additional members are urgently required for all of these working groups. Please contact us via e-mail: TVP@live.co.uk to register your interest.

6. Next Event: Community Café 5th July 2-5pm Loddon Hall.

Kathy explained that the aim of this event was to bring together the community and provide local groups with an opportunity to run stalls, either to sell things, advertise what they do or recruit for new members. By holding the event in the Annexe of Loddon Hall we will be able to cater for families using the play-park and people passing by.

7. AOB/Questions

Andy Nicholls advised that a project is under way looking at empty retail space in the area. The Wokingham Borough Cultural Partnership is a volunteer-led group that champions arts, sports, heritage and leisure for all ages and is supported by Wokingham Borough Council, local businesses and charities, and the Arts Council England South East.

8. Date of next meeting

This was set for Thurs 18th Sept but unfortunately this date will have to be postponed.

Following discussions with Tim Palmer it was agreed that we arrange a meeting in September for members of the working groups, the steering committee and all the Parish Councillors so that Tim could hand out the new set of reduced work-sheets and advise on how best to proceed with the Parish Plan process. Date, time & venue TBC.