

Minutes from the Social & Community Action Group Meeting 1st October 2009, The Duke of Wellington, High Street, Twyford

Present: Gordon Storey (resident and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire), Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), Lorna Minton (TVP events committee), Philip Poore (resident), Paul Minton (lay minister LEP), Christian Wrigley (vice-chair TVP) and Kathy Peck (secretary TVP).

Introduction: The meeting was arranged to discuss the list of possible action points arising from the recent questionnaire and focus group responses - numbered 1 to 7 below.

LEISURE, SPORT, CULTURAL & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. Find a site in village centre for permanent library, combined with parish office, IT suite, exhibition space, small museum and tourist information centre. (64% of respondents rate current library as poor; for 40% of respondents, this was the facility wanted most; 88% of Q respondents would definitely or maybe use a parish office.)

It was agreed that this was a high priority and that the whole package was important. Finding a suitable building is the rate limiting step. Various possibilities were discussed; St Mary's church (could add a mezzanine floor and use lockable pull-out book shelves), the site of the Working Men's Club, the BT Telecommunications depot behind Waitrose. The possibility of obtaining section 106 money from a possible new nursing home development was also discussed.

Action: CW to find out more about the situation regarding the BT depot

2. Find a site for a municipal gym, sports centre, indoor swimming pool, fitness centre. Explore possibilities of dual use with Piggott School if not viable only as a village facility.

This was felt to be aspirational. It would be better to look at the feasibility of adding a cover to existing swimming pools in Twyford. It was agreed that a community gym at the Piggott school would be a nice idea, particularly if it also had equipment aimed at young people, but there were queries over how it would be staffed.

Action: KP to speak to WBC to find out what plans they have for all the schools in our area. KP to invite members of all Twyford school governing bodies to join the Action Groups.

3. Provide a cinema facility and upgraded theatre facility (on lines of Norden Farm or Oakwood Centre) with potential also for live music and the arts. Is a major upgrade of Loddon Hall feasible?

It was agreed that raked seating at Loddon Hall would make a considerable improvement.

There are lots of significant buildings in Twyford all owned by different groups (Berkshire Community Foundation, Scouts, Working Mens Club, Twyford & Ruscombe Community Association, Age Concern, Polehampton Charities etc.) and there is confusion over who owns what, and what plans they may have for the buildings they control. It was agreed that we need a survey of facilities and we should then arrange a meeting to get representatives from all these groups together to discuss their plans and see if there are any synergies with possible action points in the Parish Plan work.

Action: GS to approach local figure-heads who might be prepared to bring these groups together.

4. Can Loddon Hall provide an outdoor refreshment kiosk for users of King George's Field, as well as public conveniences?

The layout and existing facilities in Loddon Hall would lend themselves well to such a scheme. It all depends on the willingness of Twyford & Ruscombe Community Association to consider these ideas.

5. Put more information about Twyford, its organizations and contact details, facilities, history, evening and day classes, forthcoming events, etc on a regularly updated website. Can TVP provide this?

Recent improvements to the TVP website have already gone some way to addressing these issues. It takes a lot of work to keep websites up to date particularly with event and contact information. This work would need to be funded.

6. Investigate whether Mobile Information Unit can visit Twyford more regularly inc. on occasional Saturday mornings.

Action: KP to contact them to find out costs and availability. KP to provide the mobile information unit with details on TVP activities, especially the forthcoming Christmas Fayre.

7. Until parish office is established, can there be a temporary information section in Waitrose?

This was thought to be unlikely, the only possibility being perhaps the café area. The Library does a good job. There is also now the Children's Centre at the Colleton school, the Mobile Information Unit, Loddon Hall and the notice board on the Paddington platform at Twyford Station.