

MALTON AND NORTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2016

Community House, Malton, at 7:00pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor David Lloyd-Williams
Malton Town Council: Councillors Denys Townsend, Paul Emberley
Clerk Mr Mike Skehan
Norton Town Council: Councillors Ray King
Clerks Mrs Rosalind Tierney, Mr Tim Hicks
Ryedale District Council: Mrs Jill Thompson
Focus Group Members: Mr Ben Stone, Mr Jonathan Gray

034. (06/16) **APOLOGIES**

Apologies given by Consultant Kathryn Jukes, Councillor Anthony Croser, Councillor Di Keal and Mr Paul Beanland.

035. (06/16) **INTRODUCTION TO THE EVENING**

No Set agenda. This was an opportunity to find out where the focus groups are in the absence of Kathryn Jukes, to feedback and make relevant comments, and prioritise that in terms of importance. The focus groups should look at having their initial feedback complete by end of June so Kathryn can work on it throughout July. Mike Skehan mentioned it might be sensible for the clerks and chairs of each focus group to have a separate meeting with Kathryn to determine procedural matters, and this was agreed by members. Denys Townsend asked if Kathryn was responsible for creating the plan or whether the steering group did it for Kathryn to mould. The consensus agreed it was the latter with the content coming from us, certainly use Kathryn and Direction's talent to put it together, but keep encouraging the already enthusiastic focus groups to produce good content. Jill Thompson added at that this intermediate stage, research how plans are emerging i.e. look at other existing plans. Ben Stone had received feedback from members of the public, saying that there is a real role for this document and we should be looking at producing a sound and stable piece of literature. Ben Stone raised an issue with Heritage being a little under strength in terms of manpower. The other three groups did not report an issue. Members said this could be addressed by direct marketing. Feedback from the individual focus groups was then heard:

036. (06/16) **FORWARD PLANNING FOCUS GROUP**

Jonathan Gray, referring to the meeting notes of 26th May, added that their group to date had concentrated on traffic congestion and associated infrastructure. At the next meeting it was hoped that they would move on to Housing and Economy. With regard to Housing they are working in tightly controlled guidance and will have to work with Kathryn closely on this one. Contravention of the prevailing local plan, The Ryedale Plan, is not allowed. Jonathan did report that connectivity was recognised straight away between the two towns. The group also recognised that the plan can improve facilities and is more than merely a wish list. The next meeting of the forward planning focus group is Wednesday 16th June.

037. (06/16) **HERITAGE FOCUS GROUP**

Ben Stone, referring to the meeting notes of 26th May, added that their group had a guest speaker on the evening, whilst this was well received it did leave little time for discussion. There was a reoccurring theme of a general invisibility of heritage with 95% of heritage 'finds' hidden. It was also noted that the Conservation Area document for Malton was outdated, and there was no Conservation Area document for Norton, and that there is a lack of design guides for the public realm i.e. seats, litter bins and lighting. It was noted that the two towns generally turn their back on the river and that the racing industry is generally invisible. The next meeting of the heritage focus group was at a date to be determined.

038. (06/16) **ENVIRONMENT FOCUS GROUP**

Tim Hicks, referring to the meeting notes of 26th May, said that the group had concentrated on the improvement of existing footpaths, the reinstatement of little used footpaths, and new footpath provision including the aspiration of a new cycleway and footbridge over the existing piers of the old railway. The group had also looked at the protection of open spaces. Air quality had yet to be looked at. The Environment group had met earlier in the week to go and walk and visually inspect some of the footpaths and open spaces. Ben Stone thought it beneficial to look at cycle trails, exercise in developments and naturalised play environments. He also asked if it were possible to consider flooding. The next meeting of the environment focus group was to take place on Thursday 23rd June.

039. (06/16) **COMMUNITY AND LEISURE FOCUS GROUP**

Paul Emberley, referring to the meeting notes of 26th May, said that the group had identified the needs of leisure facilities such as a new swimming pool and fitness centre. There was also desire to see the old Race Course in Norton re-established and a desire to see a low to mid-price hotel for the towns. In terms of outdoor activities there was lots of potential to exploit the riverside. Health and care related proposals included a new medical centre, care home and provision of NHS dentist as this is absent in the towns. Other proposals related to citizens advice, tourist information and the library. The next meeting of the community and leisure focus group was to take place on Thursday 23rd June.

040. (06/16) **WEBSITE AND TRANSPARENCY**

Denys Townsend raised the issue of correct minutes, transparency and posting to the website to get all activity into the public domain. Members agreed that all activity from the 'open meeting' in May should be minuted and posted accordingly.

041. (06/16) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 7th July, 2016 at 7:00pm at Norton Council Chamber, Commercial Street, Norton.

(Meeting closed at 9:15pm)

_____(Chairman)