



NOTES OF A HOE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MEETING
HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2019

Apologies: Ian Grimshaw, Hugh Janes, Frank Kelly, Graham Lobb, Tom Wainwright

PT opened the meeting and welcomed Rose Hamley, John Derrick, Secretary and John Gilding, VC. of Plympton Neighbourhood Forum, Chairman, Secretary and Vice Chair respectively. The purpose of this meeting is to familiarise HNF members with the process of writing and submitting a Neighbourhood Plan. Also in attendance were Jess Vaughan, PCC, and her colleague, Paul Vann an observer.

JV contextualised Neighbourhood Forums. They were established under the Localism Act, 2011. The procedure to form one is consult, gather evidence, public consultation, submit, examination process. PCC Cabinet decides if changes are required; it then goes to a public Referendum. In the case of Plympton's, their Referendum will be on the same day as local elections. If the public vote is in favour the NP is adopted.

The boundaries of Plympton NF were set by PCC, and as in the case of HNF it was a planning application that triggered local interest in forming a NF. (That site will not now be developed unless there is a change in the law.) A sub-committee of the NF committee wrote it, and reported back progress to the main committee. An A5 leaflet was produced, described as a 'Regulation 14 Consultation' and four areas were chosen for 11 consultative meetings, held across the day – mornings, afternoons and evenings.

A second leaflet, A4, was then produced which outlined the NF's policies, and action plan. A business survey using letters and Survey Monkey was undertaken, but had a low response rate. This was disappointing, but the Forum had approached all the businesses, and their lack of response is not regarded as detrimental to the final Plan's submission.

In terms of Finance, PCC has a package available, which covered the cost of 6,000 leaflets, all of which were delivered by Forum members. The final Plan was made available on line, and very few actually printed. It was publicised using local newspapers, a local podcast, the website and a Facebook page. It is important to manage the website and Facebook page; setting one up is only the first step.

Advice/suggestions from Plympton NH included:

- Be specific about green spaces;
- Include dates of school visits;
- Include dates of visits to landowners;

Because Plympton is a Stannery Town, a Stannator is on the Forum Committee.

Local issues that were raised during the consultation included:

- Traffic was identified as a key problem;
- The Health Centre is under pressure, particularly from the Sherford development because it doesn't have its own facilities which Section 106 monies should prioritise;
- Community Actions are not necessarily PC's priorities, but do inform the Council of what the local population actually wants – such as more buses.

It took Plympton two years to move from first thinking about an Area Action Plan before it became a Neighbourhood Forum, and it was a sub-committee of eight people who did most of the work, together with the Engagement Committee who did the delivering to houses and businesses. The area covers 6,000 houses, with 10,000 voters.

The people who delivered to the shops and businesses collected all the comments that were used in that section. There was a street stall on The Ridgeway which was visited by people who only come to Plympton to do their banking, from Compton, Wembury and Shaugh Prior due to the historical connection with Plympton Market.

It is wise to ensure that what PCC wants (ie, in the JLP) is included in the NP. It is the Council that will be implementing the Plan which is why it needs to go to Cabinet for approval before it goes to Referendum.

JV will advise on technical language, particularly policy language on areas such as Housing, Transport, Leisure, Health and Education. The more detail wanted in the plan, the more policies, the more evidence will be needed.

Regarding the Citadel, it is Historic England's ideas that will be most likely to be adopted.

For a 'Basic Condition Statement' Ivybridge's is a good document for ideas; there are masses available and all of them comply with the regulations.

Future Meetings

At the March meeting the Sub Groups will be consolidated for which volunteers are needed. It is suggested that Facebook and Whatsapp should be used for internal communication between meetings.

In future, Speakers will be invited bi-monthly to address meetings, and the interim meetings will be used to progress the NP.

Plymouth House

Westward Housing is ending the contract to run Plymouth House on 31.3.19. The two maisonettes at the back will continue to be occupied under tenancies.

Events

MTV will be indoors across the City; there are no plans for an event on the Hoe this year.

A comprehensive timetable for 2019 will be circulated to include a Sky TV Landscape Artist event in June. Lavatories and hush generators will be used. Contact PT with any concerns in the first instance.

Josh McCarthy will be meeting with interested parties at the Aquarium next week regarding the National Marine Park.