

Minutes of the VANTAGE (Village Action Network - Toppesfield & Gainsford End) Business Meeting held on Monday 21st November 2011 – 7.30 pm The Green Man

Present: Trisha Roberts (Minutes Secretary), Paul Thompson, Nick Hasler, Lynn Collard, Sheila Braithwaite, Allan Collard, Malcolm Braithwaite (Chairman), Maureen Dimmock, Ros Castle

1. **Apologies-** Richard Evers, Mary-Ann Stevens, Brian Moody
2. **Minutes of the last VANTAGE Meeting** (24th October 2011) - Minutes were agreed with the following minor amendments:
 - Point 6a: should read ".....further active support if any does the school need...."
 - Point 6e: should read ..." Local Business – Alan advertised that a Welcome Pack for new residents was being assembled – there were very few local businesses taking up the offer of free promotion in it.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - a. Progress against Timeline - All reports and meetings are on track and within the time line, but it was agreed that we will deviate from the timeline if necessary to ensure that the plan is not compromised by rushing the necessary work to produce it. Negotiations have begun with the PC and a public meeting is planned for end January to present a crude draft plan. It is envisaged that detailed work will follow this meeting

4. Draft Plan Document

Following a discussion on how best to proceed with those things in which a high level of interest has been shown, the following was agreed:

- a. Playing Fields and Playground Equipment
Lynn Collard will gather information (from sources including the school and playschool) and make a start on a draft plan
- b. Speed Limits
The PC has initiated action on this, but it has not yet been approved by the Highways department of the County Council. It is thought that information is needed on the amount of traffic and speeds plus a petition and a PR campaign (newspapers, MPs, Royal Family). Clare Condie will take this forward.
- c. Broadband
Jonathon Burchell had started on this issue. Trisha will contact him asking for a status and implementation plan.
- d. Aggregated Procurement/Energy Savings
Kim Stevens has started an oil buying group, but it was agreed that there is plenty of scope for potential savings from, for example, thatched house insurance, electricity, car insurance. Nick and Malcolm are going to investigate possible ways forward with the aim of presenting how savings can be achieved at the January meeting.
- e. Local Food
The Allotments Society has secured funding for a community mixed orchard. It was agreed that information is needed on what is available where, and that Trisha will start to identify this.
- f. Business Directory
Graeme Berry is interested in handling this and Malcolm contact him for guidance.

g. More Activities/Clubs/Footpaths

Alan, Paul and Ann Read are forming a group to sort out footpath issues and promote walking in the village. Given the need for the involvement of younger people in the activities/clubs subjects, this will be carried over until Molly Stevenson is available.

h. Transport

Richard Evers is handling this and could include car sharing (Maureen will obtain information from her sister), car clubs and community taxi drivers.

In addition, Lynn will continue to develop an infrastructure audit with others contributing.

With regard to the format of the Plan, it was agreed that it should include lots of photographs (possible competition for parishioners?), focus on what to be done and why, have questionnaire results available as a separate appendix and will be written in plain English. Everyone will look at the Plans of other villages on the RCCE website to get tips and Ros will obtain a hard copy of the Helions Bumpstead Plan.

5. SWOT Brainstorm

This was not completed as it was not needed following the discussions resulting in the above.

6. Stakeholder Engagement – Buy-in from community interest groups

- a. School –Lynn and Nick will handle and liaise as required, but there is a new Head and there are higher priorities at the moment.
- b. Church – Brian remains the contact.
- c. Village Hall – a letter will be sent providing the questionnaire results relating to the Hall, and offering help. Trisha will amend original draft and circulate for approval..
- d. Farming Community – Malcolm will continue to liaise.
- e. Local Business – Graeme Barry
- f. Local Transport Richard Evers.
- g. Parish Council – Malcolm to report to next PC meeting in usual slot.
- h. Shop – Trisha.

7. Next Steps

- a. Action plan groups meet, assemble evidence/data, and report
- b. Draft Action plans written
- c. Discussion with PC
- d. Discussions with RCCE and other local VP writers
- e. Review Action plans
- f. Report to Village meeting in January 2012
- g. Revise action plans

8. Launch Party

1st July 2012

9. Funding

Malcolm will check with Kaaren, but thinks we have approximately £700 remaining. More funds will be needed to print the final version of the Plan

10. Any Other Business

Malcolm met with Tony Davison and obtained lots of information which he and Lynn will put into the infrastructure audit.

Everyone will bring whatever infrastructure information they have to the next meeting.

11. Date of next meeting

Monday January 9th 2012 – 7.30pm The Green Man

Public meeting planned for January 30th 2012 at 8pm in the Village Hall.