

Biggleswade Town Plan Steering Group

Notes of Steering Group Meeting held at Town Council Chamber on Tuesday 30 September, 2008, at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mike Scott-Coomber – Chair
Mike Strange, Jean Simmons, Doreen Evans, Sheila Grayston

Apologies: Peter Woodward, Steven Watkins, Jean Rainbow,
Gerry Lawrence, Helen Horner, Jemma McClean

Note Taker: Sheila Grayston

1: Country Fayre

Mike Scott-Coomber thanked everyone who had helped on Sat 20 September. Lots of interest was shown by visitors to the Country Fayre, and the “likes & dislikes” notes covered various issues – Community, Crime & Policing, Traffic & Transport, Environment. Lots of comments regarding weeds and lack of cleanliness in the market square, poor condition of roads and pavements, need to improve facilities for young people and families. Several people expressed a desire to see more small independent shops rather than “high street chain stores”. Biggleswade people were interested in the purpose of having a Town Plan.

2: Website

Although over 250 comments had been gleaned from the two public meetings held there is a need to contact a lot more residents in order to have a fully representative view of peoples wishes for the future of Biggleswade. Ideally a minimum of 10% of the population need to be contacted and hence one way to involve people is by having a Website.

Mike Strange gave a presentation of a suggested layout of such a website. It was agreed that the website needs to explain What a Town Plan is, Why the need to have Town Plan, Who puts the plan together, photos, etc. The website should include a mini survey of “likes & dislikes”, age, gender, post code, how long have you lived in Biggleswade. It was also planned to include a “volunteer form” – name, tele no, e-mail address. Both forms to be returnable via Mike Scott-Coomber.

It was agreed the Website should be – BiggleswadeTownPlan.org.uk. It was also agreed that Mike Strange, Mike Scott-Coomber, Sheila Grayston & Jemma McClean meet within the next week to finalise the wording in order the website could go “live”.

The initial set-up cost of this website would be £40.00, inc VAT.

3: Community Group Talks

Mike Scott-Coomber and Peter Woodward had made a start in speaking to local groups - Biggleswade Rotary & Mayflower Club. Other groups are to be contacted in order to reach as many people as possible. It was also agreed

that Sheila Grayston would make contact with the Events Manager of Asda in order to arrange a day in the supermarket – 9 till 11 a.m. and 2 till 4 p.m.

4: Real Event

It was agreed this should be held on a Saturday in early November at the Town Council Chamber, plus a presence in the Market Square on the day and prior publicity via The Biggleswade Chronicle of this event. People would be encouraged to write their comments on a “flag” which they would then “place on the map”. This would give a clear indication of the areas that people felt strongly about.

5: Other groups to contact

It was agreed there was a strong need to contact younger people as most of the initial information had been gleaned from older members of the community. It was agreed we should make contact with the Biggleswade Youth Club and the local Middle and Upper Schools. Sheila Grayston agreed to make contact with Paula Brazier of Stratton Upper School who had earlier offered input via 6th form students. Sheila Grayston also offered to make contact with Martin Thomas and Jonathan Medlock of Biggleswade Chamber of Trade with a view to both speaking to their members and encouraging them to become members of the Steering Group.

6: Date of next meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be on Monday 13 October at 7.30 p.m. at Biggleswade Town Council Chamber.