

Winchelsea Town Plan Steering Committee Minutes

Monday, 16th April 2007, at 7:00pm, Court Hall, Winchelsea

Present: R Comotto (Chairman), D Morris, M de Smith, A Pope, P Dawes, S Bevan, S Turner, A Haddock, J Haddock, M Terry

1. **Apologies:** R Hargreaves, B Chishick.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** copies of the minutes were not available during the meeting but were circulated by Mr de Smith by e-mail on the following day.
3. **Matters arising:**

WTP - Traffic & transport consultation: The Chairman reported that preliminary meetings had been held in early January with the Highways Agency, ESCC Highways Authority and the Police, all regarding traffic issues, as an input to the formal consultation process (exhibition and questionnaires). The subsequent consultation exercise (see item 6) will result in a feedback to these organisations, including a follow-up meeting. The general view was that the Consultation programme had been extremely effective, with an excellent response rate and was widely appreciated, subject to the reservations noted in items 5 and 6 below.

Survey of Clubs and Societies: Also noted was the issuing of questionnaires to local Societies, several of which had now been completed and returned. This matter is ongoing.

Visual Design Statement: The "street by street" design documents that members of the Committee had agreed to provide were mostly still outstanding. Please refer to the previous minutes for details.

4. **Membership of the committee:** Alan Pope and Steve Turner volunteered to be members of the Committee and were co-opted. Katharine Manning has resigned from the Committee due to other commitments.

5. **Letters from Mr Melvin and Mr Beckett:** A discussion of the letters from these two residents was held. The Chairman noted that they had been invited to this meeting, but had not appeared. The Committee was surprised and disappointed at the suggestion that the views of any residents would be excluded. The results of the consultation would be independently audited, if only to check inputting errors into the database, but it was offensive to suggest that there would be any interference with the results. It was also explained before the questionnaire was circulated that the results would be published and brought back to the community for discussion. The questionnaire was not the end of the consultation, but the formal start.

6. **Report on the traffic & transport questionnaire:** Analysis of the results was not yet available as it will take some time to input all the returns into

the database, and completed questionnaires were still coming in. At present some 142 questionnaires had been completed and returned by the initial 'return date', and a total of c.230 responses have been received so far. Name and address information will be used only to identify non-respondents so that an additional opportunity to respond will be given to these homes. The details of the names and addresses, and the questionnaire originals, will be destroyed following completion of the analysis. Postcode analysis will also be used to identify and highlight any possible response bias by location.

The output of the analysis will be a section of the draft Action Plan.

7. Draft of the Winchelsea Emergency Plan (WEP): The draft components of the WEP, circulated prior to the meeting by the Chairman, were briefly discussed. It was agreed that it was appropriate for this Committee to take a lead in this area, and to assist where necessary in finalising the documents given the refusal of the Parish Council to get involved.

8. Conservation Society proposal: Mixed views were expressed regarding this proposal. The Chairman argued in favour of the proposal, and it is an Agenda item at the forthcoming Town Meeting. S Turner supported some aspects of the proposal, as did several others present. S Bevan, P Dawes and M de Smith favoured building on existing groups within the Town, partly out of concern that such a Society could be perceived as divisive rather than informative and constructive, whatever its excellent intentions might be. The conclusion reached was that following the Town Meeting the idea of establishing such a body and determining its structure and role be left for the community to think about for a few months to allow interested parties to come to a view as to the best course forward.

9. AOB: A draw was made for the winner of the Hamper - questionnaire number 142 was the winner, the very last one returned in time. The winner was Mr Michael McFadyean of Barrack Square. The Chairman will arrange for the prize winner to be notified and provided with the Hamper!

No other items were raised.

10. Next meeting: the next meeting will probably take place when the questionnaire results are available.