

## **WINCHELSEA TOWN PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 24 July 2007**

PRESENT: R Comotto(Chairman), B Chishick, D Clarke, P Dawes, A Hill, M Melvin, D Morris, A Pope, M Redmond, S Redmond, A Spencer, J Spencer, M Terry, S Turner.

**1 Apologies for absence.** R Hargreaves, D Robinson.

**2 Minutes of last meeting.** The minutes of 16 April 2007 were circulated. S Turner proposed an amendment to item 8. The following amendment was agreed "S Turner supported the reservations expressed by others about the creation of another Winchelsea society and believed that the existing planning process was adequate."

**3 Matters arising.** M Melvin on item 5 commented that he had not been invited to attend the meeting to comment on the letter he had sent. The Chairman noted that letters had been posted to Messrs Melvin and Beckett. It was strange that neither had been delivered.

### **4 Membership of the committee**

Cindy Cogswell was removed from the list of members due to non-attendance. M de Smith and S Bevan had resigned. D Clarke was elected to the committee by the meeting.

### **5 Report on the Traffic & Transport Questionnaire**

J Spencer asked for data from the survey for a meeting with the management of Southern (Rail) on the 2nd August. The Chairman undertook to try to provide this information.

M Melvin expressed annoyance that notice of the results had been published by the Village Voice column in the Rye Observer and demanded to know why they had not been circulated. The Chairman advised that the results had not been published and he had no idea why the Village Voice said they had. Mr Melvin should take up the matter with the Village Voice columnist. The data would hopefully be entered into the database before the end of August. Random samples were to be independently checked. Members were invited to help enter the survey data onto the database.

Mr Melvin objected to the installation of a VAS on Rectory Lane without one on Tanyard Lane. He asked why the committee had proposed one but not the other. The Chairman explained that the need for a VAS on Rectory Lane had been suggested to the Traffic and Transport Working Group but no one had suggested the same for Tanyard Lane until after the questionnaire had been produced. However, the questionnaire was another opportunity to raise the suggestion.

Mr Melvin asked for a preview of the results and J Spencer demanded transparency in the process. The Chairman explained that it had been the intention of the committee to release the results to everyone at the same time precisely in order to ensure transparency. There was no reason why anyone should get a privileged view. The Chairman reminded members that the results of the survey could not be changed by objections to the views expressed in the survey. At M Melvin's request, the committee agreed to review the results just before

publication but that the preview meeting, like all Steering Committee meetings, would be open to the public.

### **6 Draft of Emergency Plan**

A draft copy was tabled by the Chairman for approval by the Steering Committee. The draft plan had been prepared in co-operation the Emergency Planning Officer at Rother District Council, who was offering it to parish councils as a template. Once adopted under the Town Plan, details would be filled in and emergency wardens designated. It would then be copied to the police and District Council. If approved by the Steering Committee, the plan would be exposed for public comment and offered to Icklesham Parish Council for endorsement although their endorsement was not a necessary requirement.

The Chairman explained that the plan did not include a list of 'vulnerable' residents although this had been urged by the Emergency Planning Officer. The Chairman felt that this would be too sensitive and instead proposed that the emergency wardens would informally familiarize themselves with potentially vulnerable residents. D Clarke suggested the use of flow charts. P Dawes suggested an exercise should be set up to test response. There was support for these ideas and they would be investigated in due course.

### **7 Town Design Statement**

The Chairman advised that draft TDS's for the High Street, Castle Street, German Street and townscape were under preparation. It was suggested that residents be encouraged to write TDS's for their own streets by holding a competition. It was agreed to offer prizes of £25 vouchers to use at Jamie Wickens and a cash prize of £ 15 for the under 15's. Contributions would be judged by the chairman of the Rye Conservation Society.

### **8 Clubs and Societies survey**

The Chairman said Winchelsea was a social hub for the surrounding area with in excess of 34 clubs and societies. The extent of this activity needed to be identified to get a good idea of Winchelsea's needs. The information would also be useful in assisting grant applications. A full survey would provide information on this and members of the committee undertook to get questionnaires completed by various clubs and societies.

### **9 Youth Representative**

It was agreed that a youth representative was needed to ensure that the interests of the young were taken into account. A notice will be posted to attract a youth representative.

### **10 Program of future work**

A plan was circulated by the chairman for the various topics.

### **11 Any other business**

### **12 Date of next meeting**

Early September, once the survey results were available.