

NOTES OF THE **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP** HELD ONLINE ON **WEDNESDAY 14th JULY 2021** AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs A Jones Chairman (Presiding)
Mrs C Bunday Vice Chairman

Councillors A Hall M Joyce (Mayor)
M Hocking C Parker
D Howe Mrs Lesley Sheffield
R Jenks

By Invitation: Emily Farrell – Manager CIC
Kate Green – Community Engagement Consultant

Officers In attendance: Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager
Alex Robinson – Principal Administrator

CE1. CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairman of the Community & Engagement Group for the year 2021/2022.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Ann Jones be elected Chairman of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2021/2022.

CE2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Colin Davieson.

CE3. VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Community & Engagement Group for the year 2021/2022.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2021/22.

CE4. INTERESTS

None.

CE5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 22nd January 2021 were received and signed as a correct record.

CE6. PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY PLAN

The Chairman introduced Emily Farrell, Business and Community Development Manager of the CIC to outline a proposed review of the Community Plan. Mrs Farrell provided a background to the Council's existing Community Plan (published 2008) and raised the following key points when considering a review:

- The Current document was published in 2008 and whilst some of the projects outlined have been successfully achieved such as the development of Newton's Place; some have been superseded and some remained outstanding.
- Following the publication of the Community Plan in 2008, the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan (NANDP) was published in 2016. Both important documents for the town but the NANDP largely dealt with planning policy.
- A review was needed to refresh the views and aspirations for the town.
- The revised Plan would be a useful tool for lobbying and when seeking funding and more relevant as a new document.
- A comprehensive but engaging consultation process would be necessary to form the basis of the vision contained within the Plan.
- The existing themes were still applicable but needed to be refreshed and reviewed.
- Any consultation would adhere to the COVID measures in place at that time.
- Include and involve the wider community, particularly among the communities within the new developments.

Mrs Farrell then outlined an overview of the Project Plan:

- The First Step would be a Workshop provided for Town Councillors to exchange views and ideas;
- An engaging consultation process reaching out to different groups in the community during the autumn winter reporting initial findings in January 2022;
- A Draft Plan by April 2022;
- Final Report to Council June 2022; and
- Publish by July 2022.

The Project team would include all Members of the Town Council supported by Mrs Farrell, Mrs Kate Green as Community Engagement Officer and the Officers of the Town Council to ensure the project budget could be kept to a minimum.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Farrell for her informative project proposal and invited Members to raise further questions in addition to comments made within the presentation, those being:

- The Community Plan to cover Newton Abbot but include and inform neighbouring parishes;
- Recognise the demographics of the town and the lack of employment opportunity in the area;
- Concern at numerous consultations running concurrently and ensuring that the public are keen to engage on the Community Plan.

The Chairman invited Mrs Kate Green to update Members on her approach to Community Engagement. Mrs Green reminded Members of the genuine and varied approach taken to engaging with the wider community as part of the Newton's Place Project. That this was carried out using bespoke methods to capture the vision and ideas from local groups and organisations in a way that kept enthusiasm and support for the project. Mrs Green explained that there were other resources that could be used such as the Chrysalis Van, a 'workshop on wheels' that could be taken out to the communities as part of a road show. The Chairman thanked both Mrs Farrell and Mrs Green for the informative presentation and input to the project proposal. Members welcomed their suggestions and involvement in the project.

CE7. COMMUNITY PLAN - REVIEW

The Chairman invited Councillors to consider a review of the Council's Community Plan and manage its progress to publication. Following discussion among Members, the Chairman thanked Councillors for their contribution and for the valuable points made and encouraged all Councillors to be actively involved in the project. Accordingly, it was;

AGREED that the Community Engagement Group would review and manage a review of the Community Plan for Newton Abbot.

CE8. ACCOUNTS/INCOME & EXPENDITURE

A. MUSEUM

The Community and Engagement Group received and noted the Income and Expenditure statements from 1st April - 31st May 2021, previously circulated.

Following consideration, it was;

RECOMMENDED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Museum be hereby noted and accepted.

B. NEWTON IN BLOOM

The Community and Engagement Group received and noted the Income and Expenditure statements from 1st April - 31st May 2021 previously circulated.

Following consideration, it was;

RECOMMENDED that the Income and Expenditure Statements for Newton In Bloom be hereby, noted and accepted.

CE9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Engagement Group would be 6th October 2021 at 7.00 pm at Newton's Place.

CHAIRMAN