

**Report to Plumpton Parish Council on the
Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings Conference
Venue: Business Centre Plumpton College
Date: Thursday, 20 October 2011.**

From Plumpton attended by Jean Stewart and Kathy Baker

This was an interesting conference and presentations of particular value were:

Updates on the Localism Bill and the National Planning Policy Framework from Trevor Leggo.

The Standards for England Board is to be abolished and a new criminal offence will exist relating to allegations of serious transgression by a councillor

Neighbourhood Plans will become statutory. There is grant funding for front runners and the third tranche of bidding is this November.

The messages around power - Neighbourhood plans v Local Development Framework – are conflicting

Reform of the Planning System and how it will Affect Lewes District from Lindsay Frost, Director of Planning at LDC.

Democratic Conversations in Lewes District Council given by Jenny Rowlands CE of LDC and Anthony Zacharzewski of the Democratic Society.

Discussion on new ways to gain very good feedback from people which provides:

- Clearer expression of public views
- Richer information resulting from consultations = better, cheaper services
- Scope to access community resource
- Opportunities for citizen governance
- Successful neighbourhood planning pilot

Following this presentation I had a very positive conversation with Trevor Leggo and Anthony Zacharzewski about the possibility of training people in Plumpton to carry out knowledge gathering conversations. This is something that the Town Clerk for Newhaven explained to the group and which had proved very successful. Trevor liked this idea and said AiRS would find funding for this as a pilot.

Celebrating 2012. Nilam Popat Corporate Head – Communities & Enterprise at LDC

I spoke to Nilam and we exchanged some brief ideas including how plans for the Jubilee celebrations Plumpton could benefit from working with LDC. Nilam is keen to meet to discuss this and other ideas around business and tourism.

All the Power Point presentations <http://www.lewes.gov.uk/news/19589.asp> are worth viewing.

It is also worth noting that the conference has outgrown the venue and Trevor Leggo would like to hold the conference next year in Plumpton Village Hall.

From the conference I have the following proposals

Proposal 1

That Plumpton PC makes contact with Trevor Leggo to find out what more about the possibilities for being considered for grant funding towards the development of our Neighbourhood Plan in the November bidding round.

Proposal 2

That Plumpton PC makes contact with Trevor Leggo to take forward discussions on a pilot project around of training people in Plumpton to carry out knowledge gathering conversations which would form the basis of the research for our own Neighbourhood Plan.

Proposal 3

That an initial exploratory meeting is set up with Nilam to explore the ways in which the Jubilee celebrations Plumpton could benefit from working with LDC.

Kathy Baker
Plumpton Parish Councillor
28th October 2011