

Plumpton Village Action Plan

Minutes

Steering Committee (Fourth Meeting)

9th October 2006

1930hrs – Sports Pavilion

Attendees: Tom Hawthorne (Chair), Peter Baker, Carole Nicholson, Hannah Simpson Banks, Alison Taylor, Katie Wride, Jean Eagle, Denise Hall, Kelvin Spiers.

Apologies: Paul Ramsay, Paul Mitchell, Harriet Allan

1. Agreed minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 06.
2. Action since last meeting – An Action Plan information display at the Horticultural Show on 16th Sept, article in the parish mag and parish pump sections of the local papers, continue to make contact and share experiences with other villages gathering in other action plans and questionnaires.
3. Outcome of the information display at the Horticultural Show.

Tom thanked Carole and the Horticultural Society Committee for the opportunity to explain the Action Plan process to them over lunch and for allowing us to put up an information display in the foyer of the village hall during their event.

It was agreed the horticultural show had been a very worthwhile event with a lot of interest shown in the Action Plan process and many comments made in response to the questions asked; what's important to you in the village, what would you change if you could, and what do you dislike. (The display itself and the comments received from parishioners were displayed for the committee to view).

A lot of the negative feedback concerned traffic – speeding and parking. Positive feedback mainly concerned the tranquillity and rural nature of the area.

The technique of general questions asking for rapid comments on coloured sticky notes worked well. Also, a coloured map showing the results of a habitat survey of the parish attracted a lot of interest.

4. Our Action Plan Process – where are we and what is the next step?

Members of the Ashurst Wood Village Action Plan committee had offered to visit us and discuss their experiences. Subject to confirmation they would be meeting with Carole and Tom on the 15th Nov and would then attend and answer questions at our next steering committee meeting on 20th November. This will be an opportunity to pick up some good ideas for our own plan.

It was decided our current information display was good enough, it does the job. If there was sufficient space at future events both the background information and the questions could be displayed, otherwise just the questions. It was decided it would be preferable if someone manned the display each time to encourage feedback.

Kelvin agreed to host the display at the sports pavilion during the weekend 14th/15th Oct to encourage the football club in particular to engage in the process.

Other venues were discussed including the local pubs during appropriate events or just for a few days at a time, Scouts & Guides, church coffee morning early Dec, panto rehearsals, Tennis Club quiz night on 2nd Dec, the PTA school Xmas fair on 2nd Dec, the Care Club.

Katie had gathered a number of completed action plans from other areas, including questionnaires. A healthy debate took place over the content of the material and in particular the types of questions asked and how the answers had been or could be presented in the final plan. As an example the issue of speeding was discussed in detail and the committee explored the complexities of asking the right questions and what could be done with the answers once they came back in.

On a positive note it was pleasing that the parish council were starting to discuss speeding issues in the village partly due to the action plan process.

It was agreed a one page newsletter/ e.letter would be useful to circulate especially just before the questionnaire itself is circulated. Reg Stone took a photograph of the Action Plan display at the Horticultural Show – Tom to liaise to get a photo in the local papers.

Kelvin to speak to Bim Patel at the village shop and take up his offer to help by displaying information in the shop. Need to get information up at the railway station.

School involvement – discussed the school curriculum and how best to engage with the school children. In the summer Rob Upton indicated the school could get involved with the Action Plan process. Tom to follow up with Rob and report back to Alison who works at the school.

It was agreed the committee must decide on a final logo for the Action Plan at the next meeting in Nov.

How to distribute questionnaires throughout the parish and collect back in, will be discussed further. One example was Ashurst Wood who arranged for each deliverer to

hand out only 25 questionnaires and then call back personally (without being to pushy!) to encourage completion.

5. Timetable of Events – discussed the latest timetable for our action plan process and agreed minor changes.

6. Future Meetings –

There will be a sub-group meeting to start discussing the type and style of questions for the final questionnaire. This meeting will be held at Alison's house, 1030hrs on Tuesday 7th November.

Tom and Carole to meet up with members of the Ashurst Wood Action Plan Committee on 15th November.

It is confirmed the next steering committee meeting will be on Monday 20th November at 1930hrs at the Pavilion.

7. Any other business – none.