

Environment Focus Group Meeting 7 May 2013

Present: Mark Everson, Bill Ferguson, Diane Goodman, Elizabeth Medlar, Sarah Richardson.

Absent: Alan Feltham, Jim Jennings.

Agenda:

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.
2. The format and distribution of the questionnaire were discussed. The group were concerned that suggested questions had not been received. There were considerable concerns over the distribution of the questionnaire. It was pointed out that a large number of Southbourne parish residents did not get the flyer advertising the NDP. How could we be sure that the questionnaire reached all the residents?
How was the questionnaire to be distributed?
There was also concern at the level of involvement within the community. Bill had spoken to people from the disabled point of view and no one seemed to know about the prospect of 350 houses being built in Southbourne. **Bill suggested that there should be a focus group dealing with communication.** It was pointed out that the parish council website and the Southbourne carried information about the NDP. However, when this checked both websites did not appear to have been updated. It was also pointed out that the Steering Group intended to open a Facebook page and that these 3 would have monthly updates. There was also the intention to have webpage where people could paste questions. Bill also suggested that we could brief community leaders to allow the information to trickle down.
3. This led into the discussion of a belief within some sectors of Southbourne parish that there were vested interests, which might affect decision taking, that are not fully acknowledged. This was leading to a sense of unease within the parish that some might be acting in their own interests and not for the best of the community. **Is there a register of interests? Does this include commercial interests? Is there a map showing land ownership?**
4. The group moved on to discuss their areas of interest and the questions they had put together.

Bill – Disability: Bill showed us the passage he had written and the questions he had compiled. It was shocking how inaccessible most of Southbourne is if you are disabled.

Mark – Footpaths: Mark read us the highlights of his work on footpaths. Apparently they are inspected every 9 months. He was waiting for the sample questions promised by Rowenna.

Elizabeth – Biodiversity: Elizabeth had condensed her considerable work into less than one side of A4. She had also written a general Environment introduction.

Diane – Sustainable Housing and Renewable Energy: Diane had a wealth of information and was having trouble condensing it as there was so much. Her main thrust was to demand all new development adheres to future guidelines. Diane would also like an open day to show Southbourne parish what renewable are available.

5. During the meeting the group came up with 3 questions which Sarah agreed to put to the Steering Group meeting on Monday 13 May. These were:
 1. Would it be possible to send a newsletter to everyone in the parish to keep them updated with progress and to invite them to get involved?
 2. Bill Ferguson needs to see a list of all land and buildings in public ownership in the parish. Does anyone know where he can locate this?
 3. Some of the community feel disenfranchised/apathy because of undisclosed vested interests. Would it be possible to publish the Register of Interests and could we include a map to show land owned by all involved in the NDP?

6. The meeting was brought to a close at 8pm with the work by Alan Feltham and Sarah Richardson to be heard at the next meeting.
7. The next meeting is on Thursday 6th June at 7pm.