

WPC PLAN REVIEW GROUP REPORT (Cllrs Kane & Flockhart)

The Community Plan Action Group (CPAG) met 5th December 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall to discuss, review the Community Plan (CP) issues and update the 'Action Plan'; the meeting was attended by Cllrs Kane and Flockhart in order to present a report to Winkleigh Parish Council.

Present: Collin Gibson (CPAG Chair), Phil Griffiths (community issues/Winkleigh Society), Kim Melhuish (Environment/Biodiversity/Social Media), Peter Stutt (housing/community buildings), Shirley Leahy (business), Chris Flockhart (website), Wendy Mondy (on behalf of WPC and Neighbourhood Plan Group), Cllr John Kane (on behalf of WPC), Gail Flockhart (on behalf of WPC). **Apologies:** Pauline Warner, Peter Howard, Brian Holland, Graham Pearce.

Community Plan Overview & Action Plan Review

CPAG, WPC or members of the community have achieved good progress addressing and implementing some significant and/or long-standing issues of concern identified in the 'Action Plan', including;

- the problem of traffic/speeding addressed through a **traffic-calming consultation** now complete with the project seeking implementation through grant funding;
- the problem of through traffic addressed through **revised road signage** to alleviate congestion in village;
- a **20's Plenty initiative** to encourage drivers to slow down entering the village (campaign being extended to look at professional signage);
- production of a professional planning document with **completion of the Village Design Statement (VDS)**;
- informed **feedback on TDC planning consultations**, possible by WPC through reference to Design Principles in the VDS eg on Eggesford Road application;
- spin-off VDS events/activities (eg Pop-Up Museum Day, Lives in the Landscape and Walking Village scheme), **raising community awareness** and addressing issues of connectivity, distinctiveness and a sense of place;
- progression towards a **Neighbourhood Plan** – only possible through the Community Plan and VDS - aiming to give 'statutory' weight to Winkleigh's views;
- a **'Muddy Shoes'** walking group established and active;
- the profile for **recycling** raised with lobbying still active to get TDC to expand the items accepted;
- **100 trees planted** at the Recreation Ground;
- a **dog bin** installed at the entrance to Winkleigh Woods;
- feedback and representations made to TDC on **Local Plan Consultations**;
- a **Housing Needs Survey** completed with information to help Winkleigh ensure needs met;
- a **collective oil/gas purchasing scheme** has been initiated;
- **Superfast Broadband** capability is now enabled in Winkleigh

Since publication of the Community Plan in October 2014, steady progress has been made addressing items on the Action Plan (attached). This progress would not have been possible without members of the community collaborating to identify actions to support or address. With no statutory powers or substantial sources of funding, it remains a challenge for *all* community groups to maintain momentum. However, dedicated CPAG members and community volunteers have achieved some important milestones, driving the Action Plan forward and raising the profile or promoting issues of concern to parishioners. The 'Action Plan' has now been reviewed with the status of items updated and **NEW ACTIONS** added. Cllrs are asked to review changes/additions in order to endorse and adopt the updated version (**Action Plan: Dec 2016**). An update on some key actions currently under consideration, are given in more detail below.

Village Design Statement (VDS)

The VDS document has now been printed and distributed to various stakeholders (50 copies published, only 3 left) and original artwork commissioned has been professionally framed (framing funded by WPC). The finished watercolour has been presented to Winkleigh Parish Council (WPC) to retain/insure as a parish asset, which will be hung in the Village Hall. The existence and purpose of the VDS has been promoted to residents/developers/stakeholders through various means, including; DW articles/promotions, public meetings (Winkleigh Society/WPC), village events including the Pop-Up Museum and personalised mailshots/letters (eg to neighbouring parishes, TDC, DCC, Geoffrey Cox, developers including Kingsley and Greenslade, etc). A press release has been sent to the Journal, Gazette, Oke Times, etc. An insert for the Feb/March DW was suggested, summarising the 23 Design Principles.

This insert would provide a quick reference guide to anyone serious about the built environment or thinking about a building project. Feedback on the VDS from TDC was positive, although the issue of the VDS having 'advisory' rather than 'statutory' weight was noted - the Community Plan and VDS gave a solid basis for progressing a Neighbourhood Plan and would address this. It was suggested TDC are asked to advise/provide applicants with a copy of the VDS Design Principles guide, at Pre-Application stage. Further, WPC could forward copies on planning applications, although the mechanism for doing this was unclear.

CPAG will now concentrate on raising public awareness of the VDS and ensuring WPC are responsive with reference to the Design Principles advising TDC on planning application consultations - emphasis would now be on adoption of the VDS into a Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

WPC and CPAG have endorsed progression from the CP/VDS to a Neighbourhood Plan and Winkleigh Society will also be asked to support this at their AGM in January. The CP and VDS were considered '*what the community wants and has asked for*', through the public consultation process and are evidence-based.

There were some queries over cost to implement a NP, although TDC have re-assured parties that with the work substantially completed through the CP/VDS, costs should be minimal. Cllr Mondy is leading on the Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPG) and advised that funding is available through '*Locality*' (the designated authority for supporting parishes producing a NP). The '*Locality Booklet*' is available online at www.locality.org.uk. Dist Cllr Boundy had also indicated that funding could be found from somewhere and should not stop us proceeding. It was noted that progressing to a NP was based on the positive feedback and encouragement to do so, by TDC.

The NPG are currently scoping/reviewing topical areas (referencing the Community Plan), for example; traffic, planning, housing, etc, some of which may need revising in light of actions achieved or work in progress. The process regards individual issues being amended or added was queried and Cllr Mondy said that in the main, '*it is not the intention to reinvent anything already done [in the CP/VDS] and there is no reason to put anything in that is different from what has already been consulted on*'. The NPG aim to produce a draft NP, which will be reviewed and approved by WPC before it goes to TDC.

NPG members met with our District Cllr, David Green (Planning Manager) and Dawn Burgess (Planning Policy) at TDC to discuss the way forward. The priority at present is gathering information to prepare a DRAFT letter notifying TDC that WPC wish to engage in the formal Neighbourhood Planning process; this would also trigger the fact with potential developers (possibly giving more weight to WPC consultation responses in the interim). It is the aim to present a DRAFT letter for review/approval at the WPC meeting on 25th January 2017.

There was also some concern over exactly what was involved; what are the steps/process involved to achieve a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Mondy explained WPC were coming from a different starting position than most parishes/towns, so the 'standard' process is not applicable, as most of the work had been done. CPAG/Collin to assist/advise when required; the NPG will be reporting to WPC, to whom the group is accountable, via meeting reports on a monthly basis, including CPAG in this process. The steps (as seen at present) for proceeding from a CP/VDS to a NP, to be further clarified.

Traffic

An update on progress regards the Townsend Hill Traffic Calming Project and potential grant funding was given by Collin in Graham's absence. Following the recent DCC Highways Conference, Cllr Mondy had a report from Andy Clarke (NPG) on traffic/parking issues, which had been produced as result of prior consultation with Graham Pearce and the Primary School. The 20's plenty signs (in total 7 placed around the village) are beginning to deteriorate and CPAG are now researching suppliers/cost to upgrade with professionally produced steel signage. It was suggested there is no reason why *all* of Winkleigh could not be limited to 20mph (but work would be needed to investigate how this might be officially implemented by a local parish council, should it be supported by WPC).

RECOMMENDATION

WPC approve and adopt the updated '**Action Plan, dated Dec 2016**' in order to ensure the Community Plan Action Plan responds to change and remains relevant.

Cllrs Kane & Flockhart
10th January 2017