UPTON BY CHESTER AND DISTRICT



PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Upton by Chester and District Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group held on Monday 18th July 2016, 7.30pm, at Upton Pavilion, Upton, Chester.

Present: Cllr A Bennion, Mrs J Coombe, Mr P Coombe, Cllr J Evans,

Cllr J Houlbrook, Mrs P Lott, Mrs L Mellor, Cllr B Southward and Cllr A Walmsley.

In attendance: Kevin Eccles (CoCH) and Mrs S Pollard (Clerk).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received form Mr D Evans. Mr M Worden was also absent.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No declarations of interest were given.

**3. COUNTESS OF CHESTER HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Kevin Eccles (CoCH Head of Development) attended the meeting to present information on future development at the CoCH Health Park site.

The following points were included:

* The Countess of Chester is a Hospital, but the site is collectively known as a ‘Health Park’
* The new Country Park is part of this and is contributing to the health and well- being of local people.
* The entire site sits within the Green Belt – and is therefore constrained by the limits imposed.
* The height of buildings on site has been kept at a low level so far; however, building is now up to the site boundaries.
* There are geographical links to Chester Zoo via the canal and cycle way.
* There are educational benefits for the university and schools who are involved by accessing the country park for learning activities.

Members of the Steering Group were asked for ideas on how they would like to see the health park develop.

The Chairman explained that the NDP is fairly ‘prescriptive’ and that it was restricted to some degree as to what it may include.

* An important area of concern is the impact of the Health Park on neighbours; the recent NDP questionnaire results indicated an overriding concern regarding traffic and car parking, with 67% of respondents having a parking/traffic related issue.
* It was acknowledged that travel habits are hard to change; car share initiatives have not been successful amongst staff.
* It was reported that all Chester area Park and Ride services will link to the CoCH site shortly.
* Costing of multi storey car parking shows that the cost per car park space is £12,000 - £15,000 per space, compared to £1000 per space on level ground.
* There is currently no funding available for capital expenditure in the NHS for this type of scheme.
* The A&E department is too small (approx. a quarter of the size required); work is being done to educate people in alternative sources of care.
* Improvements such as the segregation of adults and children are highly desired; proposals for this type of work to be carried out are £13M – again there are no capital funds available.
* Asked about the use of solar panels, it was explained that the installation of such comes with an expectation of a long term contractual commitment which is difficult for the hospital to commit to.
* It was explained that the 1829 building and the entire site to the right of it belongs to NHS Property Services and not the CoCH.
* A member of the public in attendance pointed out that assurances were made prior to the Upton Dene development that ‘adequate land for all future needs of the hospital will be retained’- Mr Eccles invited anyone present at the meeting to arrange a visit to the health park for a closer inspection of the site.

**4. MINUTES.**

The Minutes were amended to include L Mellor as being present. It was requested that the Upton 2030 logo be included on NDP documents; this was agreed.

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**Proposed by Cllr Bennion and Cllr Walmsley.**

**5. MATTERS ARISING.**

A member of the Steering Group raised the issue of fracking; asking why, when it was clearly an important issue to the residents of Upton, couldn’t fracking policy be included in the plan.

The Chairman asked that this issue was not discussed any further until other sources of information had been used to ascertain whether or not this was the case.

Other members and the clerk confirmed that the speaker at the last meeting had clearly stated that any inclusion of mineral extraction policies included in the plan would be removed at the inspection stage.

**6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.**

It was suggested that the smaller Upton businesses could be visited by a small working party of two or three members of the group who may present a short verbal questionnaire.

It was reported that Upton High School would like to become involved in developing the Neighbourhood Plan; however, every parent governor at the school lives in Upton and none had heard about the plan.

A representative of the school would like to attend the next steering group meeting.

**Resolved: that AW will invite the high school to the next meeting.**

**A working group for high school liaison will consist of JC PL JH JE LM – a meeting will take place on 28th July (time tbc), at the home of P Coombe, to discuss precisely how the school can contribute.**

**A working group for the Vision Statement will consist of JE AB BS AW PC – a meeting will take place on 27th July, 6pm, at the home of Cllr Evans.**

**7. VOLUNTEERS.**

It was agreed that volunteers need to be given a specific task.

**Resolved: that a small working party for the purpose of discussing the best use of the volunteers will consist of AB and PC – a meeting will take place on 26th July, 7.15pm. Also to be discussed is the way to approach small businesses.**

**8. PROJECT PLAN.**

It was reported that the plan schedule is some way behind; the latest edition of the Project Plan is available on the google drive page.

**9. FUTURE ACTION.**

**Resolved: that the survey results will be sent to members of the Parish Council for their information; PC will forward the link to the clerk.**

**10. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

**Resolved: that the date and time of the next meeting will be on 19th September 2016 at 7.30pm; with the possibility of an additional meeting as necessary.**