

# **Forest Town Community Council (FTCC) Planning Sub-Committee (PSC) Meeting**

## Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011

**Present:** Jim Pugh (Co-Chair); Shlomo Downen (Co-Chair); David Bird; Paul Brown; Rose Powell; Richard Hallam; Alan Ramsdale; Mr Roy Evans; Mrs Evans; Josh Downen

**Guests from Annesley Woodhouse:** Peter Olko (Annesley Community Committed to Ensuring Sustainable Settlements (ACCESS) Chair); Russell Lathall (ACCESS Secretary); Joan Olko

**Apologies:** Betty Alberry; Alan Alberry; Heather Henshaw; Val Moss;

### **Personal introductions**

Participants appear to share much in common, including Forest Town residency and concern about over-development and having a greater say. Annesley Woodhouse guests also feel ignored by their Council's planning officers.

### **Terms of Reference and Functions of the FTCC PSC (previously circulated)**

Shlomo began by describing ground rules of mutual respect. The following volunteers were welcomed as members of the PSC: Rose Powell; Paul Brown; Josh Downen; Peter Olko; Dave Bird. The whole of the Terms of Reference document was read aloud and considered by all present. Richard raised the question of the FTCC's status. Shlomo gave a brief account of the history of the FTCC and of the 'Planning Inquiry incident'. It was also noted by Jim and several other participants that the FTCC enjoys *de facto* recognition by Mansfield District Council (MDC) and Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as a true voice of the Forest Town (FT) community. Josh noted that in relation to planning objections and other consultations that, in many instances, the quality of the planning arguments is more important than the group's status. Peter gave a brief account of a similar situation that he had experienced regarding local community group recognition. One way this was overcome was with a 1,000-signature petition; although even this did not guarantee greater engagement with the District Council.

### **Discussion of priorities for future actions (separate handout provided)**

Shlomo outlined the 7 project options and opened a discussion about priorities. Shlomo explained that all options were worth pursuing, and that as the group's capacity was built all of these options could be actioned, but that priorities needed to be agreed to inform an action plan. FTCC participants who completed the form distributed at the recent FTCC meeting prioritised: stopping unwanted developments; influencing how Section 106 Agreement money is spent; and enhancing the FTCC's profile and formal status. Richard noted that FT is a gateway to Mansfield for those entering through Clipstone, the A1, etc. Josh noted that concerns about inappropriate development in and around FT relate to the community-led plan and to working on the Local Development Framework. Jim noted that development pressures may increase due to recent planning permissions granted setting a precedent. Rose pointed out that working towards a vision of the future of FT is more positive than opposing development.

Paul described the importance of letting people know about plans for development proposals (planning applications, etc.), and suggested that the Sub-Committee could play a positive role in raising local awareness of development proposals. There was general agreement that the phrase “stopping unwanted developments” was too negative, and that providing support for appropriate development is as important as stopping inappropriate development. It should be about getting the right balance. This could also be linked to “promoting a high quality of development control decisions” and perhaps educating local people about the planning system. All FT residents present were invited to prioritise the following 7 options:

- Forest Town Community Council’s status (for planning purposes, etc.)
- Liasing with neighbouring communities
- Working towards a community-led plan for the future of Forest Town
- Stopping unwanted developments in and around Forest Town  
[Reframed as: supporting appropriate development and promoting high quality development control decision-making]
- Influencing how Section 106 Agreement / Community Interest Plan money is spent
- Working on the Local Development Framework with Mansfield District Council
- Listening to “Guest speakers”

**Action:** Shlomo to sign up for N&SDC list to keep track of Clipstone applications

### **Formulation of an action plan**

Co-Chairs Shlomo and Jim were tasked with collating and analysing the priorities and offers of voluntary support and to use these responses to formulate an Action Plan for the medium-term future of the Planning Sub-Committee, and report back.

### **Any other business**

Richard suggested a potential focus on the cumulative impact of developments that have secured outline planning permission. Richard also suggested we invite Andy Lowe to talk about plans for a country park on Warren Farm land. Mrs Evans raised concerns about the implications of development on the local roads. Jim explained the process of determining the theoretical traffic capacity of the roads, which includes computer modelling that shows the local roads are ‘underused’ (under-capacity). Peter thanked the group for making the Annesley guests feel welcome. Peter invited FT residents to join future meetings and other events in Ashfield (see accompanying poster, below), as concerns seem to be very similar. Peter advised all to explore the LDF background documents. Peter also has experience of traffic assessment, and could help the PSC with this.

Jim thanked all for attending, and promised that now that the formalities have been addressed, future meetings can be more relaxed and conversational.

# ACCESS

(ANNESLEY COMMUNITY COMMITTED to ENSURING SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS)

## FUTURE MEETINGS

### AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup> - PERAMBULATIONS OF SHERWOOD FOREST

This walk is lead by Dave Woods, poet and arts worker in language, who is recreating the perambulations which established the boundaries of the Sherwood Forest in 1622 and which were at that date subject to Forest Law. Dave will use the old map and update the walk with poetry, creative writing sessions, tree planting, blogging, twittering, face-booking and good old fashioned talking to people.

The walk will initially leave Linby Cross at 12:00 hrs and proceed to Annesley Church near Annesley Cutting. Interested members of the public are most welcome. We will attempt to put in place a return car service to Linby for the weary.

### AUGUST 30<sup>th</sup> - CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

This is being run by Dave Wood at the Acacia Community Centre between 13:00 - 15:50. Number are limited to 16 applicants. Tea and Coffee are available.

### AUGUST 30<sup>th</sup> - HISTORICAL WALK AROUND ANNESLEY

A circular walk around part of Sherwood Forest commencing at 16.00 hrs from Annesley Church (Annesley Cutting) and returning to the starting point. This walk will be undertaken in conjunction the Woodland Trust (Kaye Brennan) taking in Castle Hill, the Ice House, Little Oak Plantation etc., In addition Dick Star, local historian will be joining us at the old Annesley Church Yard where he will give a talk on local history of Annesley Hall and the Charworth Musters family etc. During this walk the importance of our native heritage will be explored as well as identification of trees, flora and fauna wherever possible. The numbers on this walk are unlimited. The walk will take about 1 ½ hours and is around 3 miles / 5km.

### AUGUST 30<sup>th</sup> - SOCIAL AND QUIZ AT THE TAVERN

A social evening and local quiz commencing at 20:00 hrs at the Forest Tavern on Skegby Road. Sandwiches will be provided.

### SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> - PUBLIC MEETING - METHODIST CHURCH (Wesley Street/Forest Rd)

A public meeting to be held at 19:30 hrs to discuss the recent application submitted by Taylor Wimpey V/2011/0437 and also V/2011/0096 and our response to this as well as suggested draft letters of objection. We will also discuss other local issues such as the intended restricted parking on Sherwood Business Park.

If you interested in any of the events, could you please contact ACCESS secretary: Mr Russell Lathall either on 01623 755165 or e-mail: [russell.lathall@talktalk.net](mailto:russell.lathall@talktalk.net) so that we can cater for the correct numbers etc.