

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the meeting to discuss The Community Plan

Tuesday 9th October 2007 at 19:30

At The Friends Meeting House High Flatts

Opening:

The meeting of the Denby Parish Community Action Group was called to order at 19:30 on Tuesday 9th October 2007 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

Alison Tribe, Andy Brown, Andy Asher, David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, Keith Melbourne (KMC), Tom O'Donovan (YRCC), and Derek Liddell (YRCC)

A. Constitution

Decision: to adopt a constitution for the Group, possibly using the Charity Commission model as our template. We should apply to the Charity Commission for simple charity status (the alternative is to be constituted as an unincorporated group).

This will enable us to take an interest not only in Denby Delf but also in such common land as Birdsedge Common. We should contact Kirklees Legal Department about the latter.

B. Presenting the Community Plan

Build a model – YRCC can supply generic cardboard cut-out buildings. Use a map and the buildings to design a 3-D model of the villages. Get local schools involved – Andy Brown and Andy Asher to approach heads of Birdsedge and Upper Denby schools.

C. Questionnaire

Use quantitative method for formulating questions. Have only 4 options, no centre option as this encourages people to think about where they stand on a question. Limit free-text to aid data entry.

Suggested broad areas for consideration:

1. The environment:

- Footpaths and bridleways
- Denby Delf and other common land
- Waste collection
- Recycling

2. Traffic and road safety:

- Speeding on the A629
- High speeds coming out of Upper Denby towards Lower Denby, under the bridge
- Provision for parking
- Pedestrian crossings and refuges
- Traffic calming outside schools (20mph?)

3. Provision of affordable housing:

- Is the housing affordable for local people
- Is there a need for sheltered housing or extra provision for elderly people in the community
- How long have people lived in the village
- What kinds of developments would be acceptable to the community

- Village Design Statement
4. Public transport:
 - Do people use it? If so how often?
 - If not, why not? Would changes to the service encourage greater use?
 - Are there enough stops? Could they be better sited?
 - How accessible is it? Does the current service take people where they want to go?
 5. Provisions for young people:
 - What provision is there in the local area
 - Would local people be interested in volunteering to run a youth club?
 - What would young people like to see in the area?
 - How easy is it for young people to get around independently?
 6. Access to healthcare:
 - Where are local healthcare services?
 - Is it easy to access these services?
 - Do people need assistance to get to a doctor/hospital/dentist?
 - Is there a need for a more local GP? Could a local community building be used as a GP surgery once a week?
 7. Shops and services:
 - Libraries
 - Shops
 - Cafes and other social meeting places
 - Post office
 8. Internet usage:
 - Do people use the internet? If so, do they have broadband, dial-up, satellite broadband, etc.?
 - If not, is that because it is unavailable in their area?
 - Would people use it if local classes were implemented to teach computer use?
 - Would people appreciate a local source of cheap computers for simple home use?

D. The Community Plan

Planning Design Statement, if constructed properly, can be adopted by the Council, but it has to be in “planning speak”.

E. Meetings

Where shall we hold meeting for local people to see the Plan options and discuss their ideas? We could centre a meeting around an event, such as a produce sale, a Christmas fair, etc. All questionnaires are to be hand delivered. Derek suggested that they are distributed in a sealable plastic bag, so that they can be collected from doorsteps or posted back – YRCC can provide a post service. It was also suggested that we provide a free draw for all completed questionnaires – with the reward something of unique value, e.g. a ride over the area in a light plane. This will encourage replies.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:15 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th October 2007 at 19:30 at the Friends Meeting House, High Flatts.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Daws [Secretary]
Approved by: David Cook [Chairman]