

# Village Action Plan – Annual Meeting

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Friday 25th September 2009

7.30pm Sports Pavilion



Present: 42 residents of Plumpton

Apologies for Absence: Oliver St John, Carol Turner

| <u>Agenda Item</u>                   | <u>Discussion</u>   |
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| <b>1. Introduction and Apologies</b> | <p>Tom Hawthorne (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the First Annual Meeting of the Plumpton Village Action Plan.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from those listed above.</p> <p>TH explained that whilst there were certain formalities to be progressed, such as the ratification of the changes to the Constitution and approval of the Annual Accounts, he hoped that those present would find out what all the volunteers had achieved over the first year, and what their aspirations were for the next year and beyond.</p> <p>The bar would be open after the meeting, and he hoped that people would stay and celebrate the first year of the community project. The support from all the members of Teams, as well as the ever increasing number of volunteers wanting to help the Action Plan was in itself a cause for celebration of the community spirit that it has brought.</p> <p>TH explained that VAP is a means for people in a community to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Express</b> what they want</li><li>• <b>Empower</b> them to help deliver what they want</li><li>• <b>Engage</b> with local authorities at Parish, District &amp; County level</li></ul> <p>People are getting <b>involved</b> in all sorts of ways, for example through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Membership of VAP Teams</li><li>• Fund-raisers</li><li>• Members of new Wildlife &amp; Habitat Group</li><li>• Members of HLC Project</li><li>• Voluntary Drivers and Passengers</li><li>• SID Operators</li><li>• Local Producers</li><li>• Everyone that helps with a VAP event</li></ul> <p>VAP is a wonderful demonstration of how a community can do things for itself bringing <b>COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT</b> alongside <b>REPRESENTATIVE EMPOWERMENT</b>.</p> |
| <b>2. Progress Report by Teams</b>   | <p>Carole Nicholson (Vice-Chair) noted that VAP was a facility for members of the community to feel empowered to help bring about the changes that they wanted to see in the village as set out in the original Implementation Plan. The VAP is a key enabler and a resource that can be tapped into by the Steering Committee and the various Councils – Parish, District and County.</p> <p>A classic example, she felt, was the HLC project which had been</p>   |

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|                            | <p>enabled by VAP in terms of freedom given to the ideas being encouraged to come forward and initial start up costs made available, but would become a project open to the whole community to get involved in, and draw in the vast array of skills in the community.</p> <p>CJN said that another example of community engagement has been the events organised by the volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plumpton Green Fair</li> <li>• Clubs &amp; Societies Day</li> <li>• Plumpton College Open Day</li> <li>• Picnic on the Downs</li> <li>• Garden Open Day</li> </ul> <p>CJN gave some examples of future events already being organised.</p> <p>Each Team had prepared a short presentation. These were given with slides and pictures.</p> <p>CJN thanked the Team members and all volunteers for all their hard work. The meeting applauded the presentations.</p>  |
| <p><b>3. Questions</b></p> | <p>TH also thanked the Steering Committee members for their support, and especially CJN for all her hard work and organisational abilities as Vice-Chair.</p> <p>TH asked if there were any questions relating to the presentation material shown so far.</p> <p>Kathy Baker asked if there were plans for the Information Booklet to be accessible on the VAP website rather than hard copies, as a way of reducing costs. Kelvin Speirs felt that there was room for both forms of communication as some people do not have access to the web. Reg Stone indicated that to cover the costs he hoped that the Communications Team would be able to find sponsorship. Funding would also be available from VAP funds, if necessary.</p> <p>Romy Conroy noted that the statistics coming from the VAP Questionnaire indicated that as well as the idea of a path from the North of the village to the Plough, there had also been interest in the idea of a footpath from the South of the village to the Half Moon, and asked that this idea to 'not be lost for ever'. Jean Eagle concurred and noted that the existing route necessitated crossing Plumpton Lane at quite dangerous points.</p> <p>Brian Barrell asked if VAP intended to monitor speeding through the village. TH indicated that the Road Safety Team was looking into the possibility of having three Speed Radar Devices for a week at a possible cost of £300 each. TH also explained that the Team was gathering information on a number of traffic-calming measures used successfully elsewhere and stressed that nothing would be put forward until the community had been consulted with – a key part of the VAP approach.</p> <p>John Angel wanted to know if anything could be done to quieten the small number of people in the village that seemed intent on creating a rift between the PC and VAP. He didn't think anyone in particular was to blame and he supported the VAP 100%, and felt that the PC</p> |

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|   | <p>and VAP needed to demonstrate that they were working well together, and by example stamp out any differences. TH agreed and indicated that VAP was doing all that it could to work with the PC eg VAP is now represented on the Strengthening Local Relationships meetings with the PC and ESCC Highways.</p>   |
| <p><b>4. Ratification of Constitution</b></p> | <p>TH explained that the current Constitution had been written as a start-up document, similar to any other newly formed entity to enable the Steering Committee and teams to be established. It had been approved in July 2008 by the Parish Council.</p> <p>TH explained that as it was now business as normal for VAP, it was now appropriate to update the Constitution to reflect on-going business and to make the rules more 'community-inclusive' now that it has become a community project.</p> <p>The new document had been reviewed by Trevor Leggo of SALC and AIRS, and had been discussed with a number of Team Leaders present at the last sub-committee meeting.</p> <p>TH summarised the changes as follows:</p> <p><u>a) New Rules</u><br/> VAP members defined (<i>not previously defined</i>)<br/> All residents of the Parish of Plumpton are deemed to be members of VAP</p> <p><u>b) Old Rules</u><br/> Steering Committee approved Annual Accounts<br/> <u>New Rules</u><br/> All residents present at Annual Meeting approve Annual Accounts<br/> Annual Accounts to be submitted to an independent examiner</p> <p><u>c) Old Rules</u><br/> Original Steering Committee nominated &amp; proposed Steering Committee members in 2008 for 2 years to September 2010<br/> <u>New Rules</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) All residents can stand for election to the Steering Committee every two years, provided they have been a member of a VAP Team or an Officer of the Steering Committee since 31<sup>st</sup> May in that year.</li> <li>ii) All residents in attendance at the Annual Meeting will be able to vote for Steering Committee Officers every two years starting in 2010</li> </ul> <p><u>d) Old Rules</u><br/> Constitution approved by Steering Committee<br/> <u>New Rules</u><br/> Changes to Constitution approved by Steering Committee, and ratified by all residents present at Annual Meeting</p> <p>Terry Thompsett asked whether the definition of residents included those under the age of 18. TH said that the Steering Committee had felt that young people should be entitled to have a say, albeit they now had a voice through the newly formed Youth Forum.</p> <p>TH said that he would now call for a vote on ratification of the Constitution.</p> <p>The meeting unanimously ratified the Constitution.</p> |

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| <p><b>5. Approval of Annual Accounts</b></p> | <p>Mac Gardiner (Treasurer) outlined the financial position of VAP for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009. In summary:</p> <p>INCOME: £2,802</p> <p>EXPENDITURE: £1,756</p> <p>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR: £1,046</p> <p>MG noted that the main sources of income had been the Jumble Sale (£918), Green Fair (£520), Garden Open (£1,025), and the Voluntary Driving Scheme Coffee Morning (£103). He also noted that expenditure had mainly been incurred on launching the Voluntary Driving Scheme (£321 to date), establishing the new Wildlife Society (£50) and a net cost of running the Societies' Day of £87. £691 had been spent on ordering 250 of the VAP Footpath Team calendars. 35 of these had already been sold. It is anticipated that there will be a net gain on the sale of these by Christmas.</p> <p>MG explained that Alan Greening had kindly agreed to examine the accounting records on behalf of VAP. MG asked if there were any questions of clarification specifically on the Annual Accounts.</p> <p>TH said that he would now call for a vote on approval of the Annual Accounts. He asked for a proposer and seconder.</p> <p>Proposer: Reg Stone<br/> Seconder: Beverly Barrell<br/> In Favour: 42<br/> Against: None</p> <p>The meeting approved the Accounts.</p> |
| <p><b>6. Further Questions</b></p>           | <p>There were no further questions.</p>  |
| <p><b>7. Conclusion</b></p>                  | <p>TH thanked all the presenters for their participation, and also thanked all the attendees for coming to the Annual Meeting. He felt that it had been a successful year with many 'quick wins' being implemented. He said that he and his fellow Steering Committee members were very much looking forward to working and consulting with the community on some of the more long-term and strategic issues during the year ahead.</p> <p>TH hoped that attendees would stay and have a drink to help celebrate the first year's achievements.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 21.00.</p>   |

Signed as a correct record:

CHAIR

*(These minutes have been circulated to all attendees and also lodged on the website. They are subject to ratification at the next sub-Committee meeting)*