



Village Action Plan – Annual Meeting
Wednesday 28th September 2011
7.30pm Sports Pavilion

003

Present: 48 residents of Plumpton

In attendance: Cllr Meg Stroude ESCC, Sarah Osborne LDC, Trevor Leggo SALC and AirS, David Scorey Southern Railway, Tim Sparrow Sussex Community Rail Partnership, Annie Rogers Plumpton Primary School Head

Apologies for Absence: Oliver St John, Ruth Segal

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
<p>1. Introduction and Apologies</p>	<p>Tom Hawthorne (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the Third Annual Meeting of the Plumpton Village Action Plan. He gave a special welcome to those also in attendance.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from those listed above.</p> <p>The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2010 (002)</p> <p>TH explained that whilst there were certain formalities to be progressed, such as approval of the Annual Accounts, he hoped that those present would enjoy the presentations by VAP Team representatives which would give a flavour of the activities over the last year and also the plans and aspirations for the year ahead.</p> <p>TH also said that there would be a special presentation by David Scorey from Southern to the Plumpton Station Partnership Scheme volunteers for the 'Best Community Station of the Year'.</p> <p>The bar would be open after the meeting, and he hoped that people would stay and celebrate the third year of the community project. The support from across the community to help progress the aspirations of the Action Plan demonstrated how united the village was, and that one of the main features of the last year was how more and more people had come forward to help with specific projects. He felt that many of the Actions were well embedded as 'normal' ways of life in Plumpton as would be seen from the various presentations and this in itself was 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"> • Express what they want • Empower them to help deliver what they want • Engage with local authorities at Parish, District & County level <p>TH explained that this last element has been instrumental in successfully gaining grant funding from these authorities and indeed the new South Downs National Park Authority for many of the community led projects.</p> <p>People are getting involved in all sorts of ways, for example through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of VAP Teams • Members of the Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group • Members of Plumpton Ancient & Modern Project • Plumpton Youth Forum • Voluntary Drivers and Passengers • Station Partnership Scheme Volunteers • Local Producers and Business People <p>TH said that by the end of the evening people will be able to see that VAP is a wonderful demonstration of how a community can do things for itself</p>

	bringing community empowerment alongside representative empowerment.
2. Progress Report by Teams	<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, and that Plumpton's VAP is seen as a successful 'Big Society' in operation.</p> <p>CJN noted that at 82% response rate, and a record number of volunteers with a record number of achievements it was fast gaining a reputation as one of the best, if not the best Village Action Plan's in Sussex. She felt that everyone involved should feel justly proud of what they had achieved.</p> <p>CJN also said that increasingly people from the action plan were being consulted by a range of authorities such as the South Downs NPA, Action in rural Sussex conferences, Station partnership conferences, County Council meetings, Deputy Lieutenants conference and very recently the Wealden District conference.</p> <p>To begin the various presentations Mike Murphy gave a short talk about his vision for a Community Orchard which was enthusiastically received by the audience.</p> <p>CJN then asked each Team Leader to speak about their Teams' achievements over the last twelve months presented as a journey through the year. Many of the activities are well-embedded in day-to-day life in the village such as the Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group, Plumpton Ancient & Modern and the Plumpton Station Partnership Scheme. Throughout this section of the meeting, the work on behalf of the Parish Council was stressed and the successful grant fund raising and the organisation of various community events such as the 'Plumpton on Track' event in December 2010 to celebrate the extra train services, and the highly popular Plumpton Festive Fair.</p> <p>During the presentations Annie Rogers noted how keen the school was to be involved in community projects such as the Village Action Plan and gave examples such as the Christmas Card competition at last year's Festive Fair and the Climate Change posters last Spring. It was activities such as these that had helped the school earn an 'excellent' from Ofsted for its community engagement work.</p> <p>The meeting was reminded of two events coming up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walks Event from the Half Moon on 23rd October • Festive Fair on 26th November <p>CJN thanked the Team members and all volunteers for all their hard work. The meeting applauded the presentations.</p>
3. Questions	<p>TH asked if there were any questions relating to the presentation material shown so far.</p> <p>Mrs Carole Burgon requested that the Road Safety & Public Transport Team included in their recommendations to the Parish Council a speed reduction plan in the northern and southern parts of the village beyond the 30mph zone.</p>
4. Station Partnership Scheme Award	<p>David Scorey (Southern Railway) and Tim Sparrow (Sussex CRP) spoke of the pleasure and pride they had enjoyed over the last 15 months in working in partnership with the volunteers that formed the Plumpton Station Partnership Scheme. The meeting was reminded that the scheme had only</p>

been launched in June 2010 with many residents in attendance with MP Norman Baker and Southern representatives. Since then there has been a library installed, planters and hanging baskets, display boards for community activities and wildlife and habitat work, as well as the 'Plumpton on Track' event which was attended by nearly 150 residents that had come to celebrate the increase in train services from December 2010. David Scorey invited Mick Newman, Station Master, and Paul Nicholson SPS Leader to come forward and receive a plaque for 'Community Station of the Year' across the Southern network on behalf of the volunteers. All the Station Partnership Scheme volunteers were asked to stand so that their efforts could be duly acknowledged.

4. Approval of Annual Accounts

Mac Gardiner outlined the financial position of VAP for the year to 31st August 2011. In summary:

INCOME IN YEAR: £11,775
 EXPENDITURE: £12,193
 REDUCTION IN FUNDS IN YEAR: £418

	INCOME (£)	EXPENDITURE (£)	SURPLUS (£)
FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES	1,104	171	933
GRANT FUNDED ACTIVITIES	9,279	9,914	(635)
ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES	1,367	1,858	(491)
OTHER	25	250	(225)
	<u>11,775</u>	<u>12,193</u>	<u>(418)</u>

MG presented the full analysis of each of the above lines of account. Copies of the accounts were available to those present and they are also on the VAP website www.plumptonvap.co.uk

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.

TH said that he would now call for a vote on approval of the Annual Accounts. He asked for a proposer and seconder.

Proposer: Mick Newman

Seconder: Terry Thompsett

In Favour: All present

The meeting approved the Accounts.

5. Review of Constitution

MG explained that VAP had earned income in 2009/10 in excess of £5,000 which meant that it needed to register with the Charities Commission if the CC decides that VAP is deemed to be a charity.

MG explained that if the registration is successful it was recommended that VAP adopts the standard CC Constitution. Once this is done VAP can add its own bylaws provided these do not conflict with those of the CC. MG outlined the main differences between the existing Constitution and those of the CC. MG noted that there would be no change to the modus operandi of

	<p>VAP.</p> <p>He explained that the meeting would need to agree that the registered name of the Charity would need to change from VAP Steering Committee to Plumpton Village Action Plan. The meeting also discussed the wording for adoption of a slightly different objects clause. The wording agreed was <i>“the object of the Plumpton Village Action Plan is to act on the recommendations of the VAP Implementation Plan, adopted by the Plumpton Parish Council on 20th May 2008, and future Implementation Plans, as agreed by Plumpton Parish Council, on behalf of the residents: by providing advice, fundraising and procuring grants for VAP causes, and implementing proposals to improve village life”</i></p> <p>MG called for three votes as follows:</p> <p>a) Adoption of the standard Charity Commission Constitution: Proposer: Kathy Baker Secunder: Kate Gold In favour: All present</p> <p>b) On the assumption that registration is successful, agreement to the change of name: Proposer: Paul Nicholson Secunder: Jeff Smith In Favour: All present</p> <p>c) Agreement to the revised objects clause. Proposer: Anne Marie Allen Secunder: Kathy Baker In Favour: All in favour</p> <p>The meeting carried all three motions.</p>
<p>6. Election of Steering Committee Member</p>	<p>TH reminded the meeting that Michael Ward had stepped down from the Steering Committee a few months ago. He noted the sound advice that Michael had given the Steering Committee and the valuable contribution he had made to the VAP activities.</p> <p>Volunteers had been asked to consider standing for election to the Steering Committee. TH advised that Catherine Jackson had been proposed and seconded. As there was no other candidate, Catherine was duly elected.</p>
<p>7. Any Other Business</p>	<p>a) Commentary by Parish Council Terry Thompsett, Chair of the newly elected Parish Council, said that he was always very encouraged that Plumpton has such a vigorous Village Action Plan and has been proud on several occasions when attending conferences that the Plumpton plan has been used as an example of how a plan should be set up and how it should evolve. <i>(The full text of TT’s statement is attached to these minutes).</i></p> <p>Paul Nicholson (Vice-Chair of PPC) said that whilst the work of the PC and VAP had in some instances different objectives, there were many areas of overlap and in these areas there was a desire by the PPC to engage with VAP and seek advice and help with projects. Highways and Road Safety, he felt was a classic example where statistics gathered by VAP could be used to evolve PPC strategy on Highways’ issues.</p> <p>b) Commentary by District Councillor Sarah Osborne said that the Plumpton VAP volunteers had ‘done a phenomenal job’ in all areas of its activities. She was particularly enthused by the community orchard project and the excellent work of the Recycling</p>

	<p>Team in establishing a cardboard collection facility which she confirmed would become a kerbside cardboard collection by 31/3/12. In addition kerbside food waste would be brought into Plumpton by 31/10/12.</p> <p>c) Commentary by County Councillor Meg Stroude thanked everyone for their energy and phenomenal commitment to deliver, and applauded the sustained activity over the last three years with huge drive and enthusiasm to deliver even more. She noted that at many council meetings and other meetings Plumpton was often mentioned as a community that delivered on its promises.</p> <p>TH thanked all the Councillors for their encouragement and support.</p>
8. Conclusion	<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 another successful year with many 'projects now well embedded in the community and many others in the process of implementation. 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 thanked his fellow Steering Committee members (Kelvin, James, Oliver and Mac) for their support and commitment over the last year; but asked that the meeting especially acknowledge Carole's huge contribution both in terms of time and passion for the Village Action Plan and her leadership of volunteers.</p> <p>TH hoped that attendees would stay and have a drink to help celebrate the second year's achievements.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 21.30.</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 Annual meeting)

Annex to Minutes
Statement made by Terry Thompsett, Chair of Plumpton Parish
Council

VILLAGE ACTION PLAN – ANNUAL REVIEW 28.9.11

THANK YOU FOR INVITING BOTH MYSELF AS CHAIRMAN AND PAUL AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE. I HAVE, I BELIEVE, ATTENDED IN OTHER GUISES, ALL THE PREVIOUS REVIEWS AND FOUND THEM TO BE VERY USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE.

THE PARISH COUNCIL WHICH IN ITS PRESENT FORM HAS ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE SINCE THE 13TH MAY 2011 HAS A NUMBER OF NEW FACES ON IT AND I AM VERY HONOURED TO HAVE BEEN ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN WITH PAUL AS VICE CHAIRMAN. AS WITH ALL NEW TEAM MEMBERS THEY TAKE A BIT OF TIME TO GET USED TO EACH OTHER. I HOPE THAT IS HAPPENING AND THE PC IS SET TO MOVE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

I AM, PERSONALLY, ALWAYS VERY ENCOURAGED THAT PLUMPTON HAS SUCH A VIGOROUS VILLAGE ACTION PLAN AND HAVE BEEN PROUD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN ATTENDING CONFERENCES ETC THAT THE PLUMPTON PLAN HAS BEEN USED AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A PLAN SHOULD BE SET UP AND HOW IT SHOULD EVOLVE ESPECIALLY IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL. WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY NEW GROUP THE THOUGHT OF THE VILLAGE ACTION PLAN WAS TO MANY PARISHONERS FOREIGN AND ITS PLACE IN VILLAGE LIFE UNCERTAIN. I THINK THAT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS THE VILLAGE ACTION PLAN WITH ITS TEAMS OF WILLING VOLUNTEERS, HAS BEEN ABLE TO, IN THE MAIN, PUT PEOPLES MINDS AT REST AND THEY CAN SEE THE BENEFITS ARE INTENDED FOR THE WHOLE VILLAGE NOT JUST THE ELITE.

THE VILLAGE ACTION PLAN IS ABLE TO DIRECT PEOPLES ENTHUSIASM IN A VARIETY OF GOOD CAUSES IE THE VOLUNTARY DRIVERS SCHEME, RAILWAY USERS ETC

IT IS HOWEVER VERY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE VILLAGE ACTION PLAN IS PRIMARILY A TREMENDOUS TOOL FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL TO USE. THIS TOOL TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACTION PLAN'S MANY VOLUNTEERS AND BASED ON ANY BRIEF FROM THE PC IS FOR THE ACTION PLAN TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT BACK WITH ITS FINDINGS BEFORE ANY DECISION IS MADE BY THE FULL PC. A CURRENT ITEM IS THE VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, HEAVEN FORBID WE EVER NEED IT BUT THE PC HAS ASKED THE ACTION PLAN TO LOOK INTO THIS AND PREPARE A COHESIVE EMERGENCY PLAN. AT A PC COMMITTEE MEETING ONLY LAST NIGHT THE QUESTION OF BUSES CAME UP AND THE LINK WITH BUS TIMETABLES AND TRAINS AND HOW THESE COULD BE IMPROVED TO FIT THE RESIDENTS, COMMUTORS AND VISITORS AND IT WILL BE THE PC INTENTION TO ASK THE VILLAGE ACTION PLAN TO LOOK AT THE CURRENT USAGE AND HOW THINGS CAN BE IMPROVED.

ONE PARTICULAR PROJECT WHICH THE PARISH IS INDEBTED TO THE VILLAGE ACTION PLAN IS FOR THE AMOUNT OF WORK PUT IN TO DATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW PAVILION. JAMES AMWYL HAS PUT IN AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WORK ON THIS AND THE PC THANKS HIM PUBLICALLY FOR THAT. THE SCHEME HAS NOW MOVED TO THE NEXT

PHASE WITH A JOINT COMMITTEE CONSISTING PC MEMBERS, VILLAGE ACTION PLAN MEMBERS AND USERS REPRESENTATIVES SET UP TO GO THROUGH THE PROS AND CONS AND REPORT IN DUE COURSE TO THE FULL PC.

I HOPE THAT THE PC AND VILLAGE ACTION PLAN CAN CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH EACH CONSIDERING THE OTHERS PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY.