



Village Action Plan – Annual Meeting
Tuesday 28th September 2010
7.30pm Sports Pavilion

002

Present: 28 residents of Plumpton

In attendance: Cllr Meg Stroude ESCC

Apologies for Absence: Jonathan Taylor, Kate Gold, James Anwyl

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
1. Introduction and Apologies	<p>Tom Hawthorne (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the Second Annual Meeting of the Plumpton Village Action Plan.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from those listed above.</p> <p>The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2010 (001)</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 find out what had been achieved over the year, and what the 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 second 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>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 Wildlife & Habitat Group • Members of Plumpton Ancient & Modern Project • Plumpton Youth Forum • Voluntary Drivers and Passengers • Station Partnership Scheme Volunteers • SID Operators • Local Producers <p>VAP is a wonderful demonstration of how a community can do things for itself bringing community empowerment alongside representative empowerment.</p>
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.</p> <p>CJN noted that she had attended recently the Action in rural Sussex Annual Conference which had attempted to explain the so-called 'Big Society' concept which sought to encourage local people to take action for themselves. She felt that Plumpton was already well on the way towards this aspiration with the implementation of its Action Plan. At the same conference, a model being developed jointly between AirS and the</p>

	<p>University of Brighton centred around the future ‘21st century village’ had highlighted Plumpton’s VAP as an exemplar for other communities.</p> <p>The VAP is a key facilitator or enabler whereby ideas put forward by residents, whether or not they are in VAP Teams, can be initiated, funded to start them off and then encouraged to establish themselves in their own right.</p> <p>The meeting saw presentations of such schemes that are now well-embedded in the community, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group • Plumpton Ancient & Modern • Cardboard Recycling Centre • Plumpton Youth Forum • Plumpton Station Partnership Scheme <p>Kelvin Speirs spoke about a small working group he would be leading to look at establishing a community-based Emergency Plan which would augment the high level parish-council plan.</p> <p>CJN said that another example of community engagement has been the events organised by volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plumpton Festive Fair • VAP stand at the Plumpton College Open Day • Plumpton Village Fair <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. Of particular interest were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The statistics produced from the use of the 4 speed radar boxes in May 2010 • The improved train-timetable coming into force in 12/2010 • The new village notice-boards in terms of their usefulness • The information booklets • Popular first-aid training courses • Defibrillator and responder services • Further initiatives from the Station Partnership Scheme • The concept of a ‘Business Breakfast’ for local traders • Progress with feasibility for a potential new playpark and sports pavilion <p>The Footpath Team announced the launch of their new Walks Leaflets would be held on 10th October 2010.</p> <p>The Plumpton Goes Green Team launched its Community Footprint programme, hoping for around 100 volunteers to come forward across the parish. All those present were invited to take a form for filling in.</p> <p>The PGG Team also said that it would be following up the Home Energy Event with a Draught-Busting Event on 4th November.</p> <p>VAP would be following last year’s highly successful Festive Fair with its second Festive Fair on 27th November.</p> <p>CJN thanked the Team members and all volunteers for all their hard work. The meeting applauded the presentations.</p>
<p>3. Questions</p>	<p>TH asked if there were any questions relating to the presentation material shown so far.</p> <p>Kathy Baker suggested that perhaps an initiative for the VAP Public Transport Team to take forward would be the need to make bus timetables coincide with train timetables. Oliver St John said that the Team has already started thinking about this particularly in the light of the provision of further hourly stopping train services at Plumpton from December 2010.</p>

	<p>CJN noted that at a recent presentation she had attended the ESCC Transport 3 strategy had been shown and the focus would be on 'corridors of movement' ie being smarter about linking up services with trains, etc.</p>
<p>4. Approval of Annual Accounts</p>	<p>Mac Gardiner outlined the financial position of VAP for the year to 31st August 2010. In summary:</p> <p>INCOME: £8,709</p> <p>EXPENDITURE: £4,760</p> <p>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR: £3,949</p> <p>The income figure included grants totalling £3,050 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £725 from ESCC and £400 from SDCVS for the Voluntary Driving Scheme; • £900 from the Crime Reduction Partnership for the Speed Radar Boxes; • £250 for the Walks Leaflets Posters from LDC; • £775 from the Sussex Community Foundation for the HLC Project. <p>Other income had come from village fund-raising events such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jumble Sale (net £689); • Safari Supper (net £605); • Music Evening (net £627); • Although it had not set out to be a fund-raising event, the Festive Fair had successfully netted a further £322; • Calendar sales had totalled £869 (all in 2009/10 accounts and showed a net profit of £210 over the two years), whilst the Notecards which had cost £271.44 to print had already brought in sales of £127.50. . • Societies and clubs had contributed £260 towards the Village Notice-Boards which was used for insurance and construction of the boards on the village green and opposite the station. • The Voluntary Driving Scheme had raised £786.70 during the year (on top of the £1,125 raised from grants) but spent a total of £1,286.02 (marketing through postcards, insurance, CRB checks, first aid training, mobile office) leaving a balance of £625.68, taking into account the two grants. Once the costs of further first aid training are known the balance will be paid over to the VDS scheme. <p>MG explained that Alan Greening had kindly agreed to examine the accounting records on behalf of VAP.</p> <p>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: Oliver St John Seconder: Terry Thompsett In Favour: All present Against: None</p> <p>The meeting approved the Accounts.</p>
<p>5. Review of Constitution</p>	<p>TH explained the main points of the constitution, as approved by the meeting last year, with particular regard to nominations to the Steering Committee for election every two years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 31st May in that year; ii) The minimum number of Steering Committee Officers is five, and the maximum is seven.

	<p>iii) If seven or less candidates stand, they will automatically be elected to the Steering Committee;</p> <p>iv) If more than seven, there will be a secret ballot at the Annual Meeting;</p> <p>ii) All residents in attendance at the Annual Meeting will be able to vote for Steering Committee Officers every two years starting in 2010</p>
6. Election of Steering Committee Members	<p>TH firstly thanked all the Steering Committee members for their support and hard-work over the last two years.</p> <p>TH noted that Peter Baker and Jonathan Taylor had decided not to stand again for election. The meeting joined TH in thanking them for their efforts on behalf of the community.</p> <p>The remaining five members of the Steering Committee had been nominated and proposed and had agreed to stand for election to the Steering Committee. All volunteers that had been members of VAP Teams since 31st May 2010 had been invited to put themselves forward for nomination to the Steering Committee. TH noted that he was delighted to be able to report to the meeting that two candidates had come forward – James Anwyl and Oliver St John.</p> <p>TH then listed the seven candidates and noted that as there are seven candidates, all seven were deemed to have been elected. The seven people that will therefore be on the Steering Committee for the next two years will be:</p> <p>James Anwyl Mac Gardiner Tom Hawthorne Carole Nicholson Kelvin Speirs Oliver St John Michael Ward</p> <p>TH explained that the Steering Committee would determine the various offices at its next meeting on 5th October.</p>
7. Any Other Business	<p>Meg Stroude queried why the SDNP had not yet been mentioned. Kathy Baker noted that the VAP Business Team was at early stages of discussing how to promote Plumpton as 'The Gateway to the Downs'.</p> <p>Meg Stroude applauded Plumpton as a flagship community which she took great pleasure in frequently telling ESCC about and that Plumpton was a clear example of a 'Big Society' community.</p>
8. Conclusion	<p>TH thanked all the presenters for their participation, and also thanked all the attendees for coming to the Annual Meeting.</p> <p>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 hoped that attendees would stay and have a drink to help celebrate the second year's achievements.</p> <p>Kelvin Speirs asked that the meeting particularly thank Tom Hawthorne and Carole Nicholson for their enthusiasm, leadership and hard-work.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 21.15.</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)