

Community and Sports Focus Group Meeting

14th March 2013 7.45pm

Minutes

Present: Peter Hughes, James Roth, Zac Inston, Rob Walter, Beverley Thompson, Warran Lamb, Alison Mann, Nick Paterson-Neild, Graham Vockins, Tony Holdsworth, Sunita Sharma, Ian Clarke, Moira Taylor, Dawn Peer, James Kirby, Peter Jones, Sarah Beardmore

Attending: Katy Hughes.

1. Introductions

Peter Hughes introduced attendees.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 24th January were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Update on sports facilities

Peter Hughes reported that the sports consultancy is underway. He reported that Tony has contacted all the sports groups that he has been able to find within the parish. He has also contacted schools and church groups and other groups who might have an interest in sports facilities.

Peter reported that an interim report is anticipated around the end of April and it is hoped that the report will be complete and ready to be reviewed at the next meeting of this focus group, scheduled for Thursday 2nd May.

Peter reported that the sports report will review the quality of existing facilities and what they are lacking, as well as projection forward for what is likely to be required.

Peter noted that if the report is approved, it will form part of the neighbourhood plan.

Peter reported that the parish council have been granted a short term lease of additional football pitches at Ryeish Green. Beverley Thompson reported that WBC are investigating other facilities.

Peter reported that WBC have offered Shinfield Rangers two options on facilities for summer training, both of which are outside the parish, at Chalfont park and Laurel Park, at no cost to the club. Discussion on this matter will be continued outside of this meeting.

Attendees discussed the issue of parking at Ryeish Green sports pitches. It was noted that land alongside the entrance track does not belong to the parish council and that any changes such as laying down hard standing may require planning permission.

4. Feedback on the village centre workshops

Nick Paterson-Neild reported on the two workshop sessions held at Oakbank School on Saturday 9th March. He reported that 33 participants had taken part, contributing to discussions on shops and retail, public space and the community building.

He reported that a variety of exercises were used to allow people to express their views and thoughts on the plans, which he noted were very conceptual at this point.

Nick reported that the physical montages created at the workshops were being photographed and would be collated into a document which would form part of the development brief.

Nick reported that initial comments / wishes at the sessions included:

- Comments on how the community building would be run, and the need for income and integrated offices.
- Strong view about a wide range of facilities – an affordable space for local groups. Focus on community groups being able to use a flexible space.
- Consensus that the library may not be a conventional library, but possibly an E-library
- Café
- Event space
- Creche
- Flexible building that can adapt to different needs
- Roof garden
- Desire for it to be a destination place
- Concern about servicing and access to retail units – noise etc.
- Parking is a major issue – concern that there will not be enough
- Link between school green and the new centre – seen as important
- Strong desire to see existing buildings integrated into the space.
- Quite a bit of concern that the centre was not visible to the main thoroughfare
- Require good links to outside space
- Fully integrated into footpaths
- Extended hours so used in evenings and weekends
- Less of an issue about the residential units in the space but a desire to have eyes on the street
- Special housing should be for local people
- Place needs to feel like a village
- Informal play for all age groups
- High quality materials in the open space, green,
- Multi-functional external space – market, outdoor theatre that sort of thing
- Not dominated by the supermarket
- Not dominated by cars or through traffic

Nick reported that the consortium will report back the ideas to the public at an all-day exhibition at Oakbank School, scheduled for Saturday 13th April.

Nick gave a brief description of the community space drawings which Peter showed to attendees. He noted that the plans are to show the parameters in which the community centre will be located.

A general discussion was held regarding the design and style of the retail centre. Attendees expressed a wish to see small retail units, styled similar to those at Holme Grange craft village in Wokingham. Attendees discussed issues of car parking and a desire was noted for a car park available for both supermarket and retail shoppers as well as other users. It was noted that some issues discussed fall outside of the control of planning.

Peter Hughes highlighted the supermarket survey on the neighbourhood plan website (shinfieldplan.org)

5.Feedback from Sunita Sharma regarding the community centre building

Sunita reported on feedback gauged at the consortium workshops:

- Importance of having paid employees in partnership with volunteers to run the centre
- Possibly parish council should be the managers
- Multi and flexible use
- Reasonable costs
- Possibly a 3 storey building with storage / archiving space in the roofspace
- Some discussion about a library
- Youth space – possibly a designated area on the second floor
- No sports activities discussed as envisaged that sports facilities would not be located here
- Solar panels
- Satellite space for other groups
- Mother and baby group space
- Café

Peter Hughes noted that the space was not planned to incorporate racket type sports where high ceilings are required. It was noted that floor sports such as martial arts and yoga could be held in the space.

He noted that the S106 agreement for the developments states that the University of Reading will build a community centre of 1,000 SqM. He noted that the agreement does not specify any details regarding the design or the construction materials to be used.

Peter noted that there are two pavilions drawn on the plans for the sports areas. He noted that the locations of these pavilions are flexible.

Attendees noted that the existing hall spaces in the parish are well used and that there was currently plenty of demand for both office space and hireable hall space for local community groups.

Attendees discussed the Jacobs building.

Peter Hughes listed the site and buildings listed for consideration for the Community Right to Bid initiative.

Peter Hughes reminded attendees of the new neighbourhood plan website and the new mapping tool.

6.Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2nd May at the Parish Hall.