



Wirksworth Civic Society

Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 28th April 2009

Draft minutes

Present

Colin Pidgeon, Chair
Janet Pidgeon, Secretary
Barry Joyce

Ian Dare
Graham Barfield, Programme Secretary

Apologies

Marian Vaughan

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Pelican crossing –control box at back of footway but in middle of pavement as it is DCC council-owned area; possible danger to sight impaired; information passed on to Irene Ratcliffe & she is following up

**Action –Janet to email Dick Hardy*

Wirksworth in Bloom- no action as it overlaps with remit/activities of other groups; suggestion that it amalgamates with Sustainable Wirksworth; Community event planned – Wirksworth Open Gardens

Town Notice Board –hoping to place board in Market Place; AGS would make one with timber provided; need DDDC to clear space to create focus point in Market Place

**Action –Mike to liaise with EVRA who have a board there*

Gate House Wall –wrote to owner suggesting fast-growing hedge but no response

Agenda items

Townscape Working Party Report

See attached notes of meeting

Church Walk Group- issue of maintenance responsibility continues, DDDC accepts responsibility but has no budget allocation; we have to ask Topps for an estimate for maintenance of repaired/restored railings & plinth & send to DDDC so that decision can be taken; has implications for our ability to obtain funding for project; University keen to be involved & is to give price for MP3 audio trail & sticks to distribute to organisations such as school & libraries, CS for access by public; Festival not willing to become involved but this is a requirement of HLF

**Action –Barry to contact Festival*

Adam to contact Topps

Town Notice Board –see above; concern about inappropriate use of Town Board by Cruck Beam –need frequent stripping out of private & non-local notices; lockable board needed

for Market Place; also increase in flyers on lampposts & buildings which are not removed after event

**Action - TWP to consider*

Planning applications

-Request to demolish building on The Causeway & build a property on site to go to Conservation Forum

-New Dale Cottage in The Dale wants to add concrete pillars & metal gates to protect children staying at property (holiday accommodation)

-Appeal to convert barn to holiday accommodation on land at Hardhurst Farm, Greenfields; opened up lower field, wall breached; enforcement notice served, appeal put in for retrospective permission –to be monitored

Future of Civic Society

We need to involve people who would take over in the future; Ian joined following publicity so we need to try that again; refocusing the talks has proved successful in attracting members but the civic side is weak –people do not want to join committee; start campaign targeting individuals with letter asking whether they might consider becoming actively involved & revisit wider mailing in town to attract more members

**Action –campaign in summer*

AOB

-*Bolehill Improvement Group*- proceeding with additional parking space opposite Institute for village parking scheme; application for funding with DDDC; asking price for land £5000

-*Yokecliffe Avenue*- footpath behind Swain's Meadow connecting Yokecliffe Drive with Summer Lane is not registered but established by custom & practice; field owned by local farmer; application to rent field as area for pheasant rearing for shoot; footpath would be closed to public

**Action – Mike to talk to farmer about established footpath*

-*Local economy*-Annual Town Meeting has Zoe Jepson speaking about retailer training & buy local initiative, 5th May, 7.30pm

-*Preplanning application* DCC planning to build educational facility at north end of old salt depot on Harrison Drive; Barry met with Corporate Resources & architects & gave initial comments; intending to use standard plan but must keep building away from rock face as it is SSSI; sketch designs to be shown to Barry; site meeting on 8th May; site to have 6 parking spaces; Mike suggested speaking to Town Council as parking spaces could be used for town at weekends; current permission to use as temporary car park; suggestion that facility wall should be carboniferous limestone like rock face

-*Coping stones in Church Walk* –as Church walk project is in future, need to ask for coping stones to be replaced

-*Coping stones on bridge*- not replaced & key position at entrance town; need to follow up

**Action –Janet to email Anton*

Date & time of next meeting:

Tuesday 30th June 7.30pm, 10 Summer Drive