

Shadoxhurst Village Forum

Notes from 4th Village Forum Meeting held on Monday 25th July 2016

- To maintain the quality of life for all in the village
- To generate issues that could be put to the Parish Council
- To re-ignite community spirit and engender friendship
- To build a social feeling in the village
- To suggest things that will bring people together
- **With a Vision to create and develop a positive community spirit.**

1. Welcome

Twenty villagers attended the meeting. David Ledger chairing the meeting welcomed everyone and there was a brief introduction of those present.

2. Discussion following the last public meeting

A summary of the notes from the last meeting had been previously circulated and there was no further addition to it.

3. Local Plan, helping you with your response

David and Carol Procter gave a joint power point presentation about ways of responding to the consultation. It was done step by step, and related to the online response method which ABC rather favoured. There is a form to use but this is for postal responses. However the form asks specific questions which need to be the basis of how responses are worded.

This referred to whether the Local Plan was Sound or Unsound. There were four tests of unsoundness and these are by asking is

1. Positively prepared
2. Justified
3. Effective and/or
4. Consistent with national policy

These are complicated tests to consider to “non-specialist” folk such as most of us. The Parish Council will be doing its best to answer these in the best way it can. The final response will be agreed at the PC meeting which has been brought forward to the 2nd August and will be submitted to ABC after that, however the final documents will be forwarded to Forum Members in case they wish to use any of the aspects raised for their own response.

All was rather daunting and members asked for further clarification. Since the meeting Peter Finnis has prepared advice for everyone about how best to go about doing their response. This is attached and hopefully will be an easier way in. The attached is largely screen shots. The primary route is via ABC **‘Have Your Say’** and you do have to register first. There are Guidance Notes regarding submitting the representation which are worth reading, also there are Guidance Notes on Legal Compliance and Soundness which do lead you to other parts including National Planning Policy and the Framework upon which it is all based. However, since the meeting we have discovered that ABC Representation Forms may also be submitted by e-mail (details in the Notes).

Also somewhere that may help, is the **Planning Advisory Service** at www.pas.gov.uk where there is further information about the 'soundness tests'.

Part of the presentation included the other ABC consultation on 'Community Infrastructure Levy' or CIL for short. This is running parallel and is in itself quite complex. It is a way of ABC raising money from development in the future. There are different scales across the Borough.

4. Local Plan Parish Council response to the Pub Field proposal

The latest draft had been circulated and all thoughts and ideas are most welcome. It is still work in progress and the Appendices are still being worked up too. It is becoming a big document and it would be good to receive comments about it; as soon as possible please. There are some subjective bits and we need to turn them into objective comments.

We also need to find further evidence of public use on the field, please help if you can. Any final decision will lie with ABC; we have come from the perspective of no houses so it forces ABC to reconsider the whole idea of the future use of the field. They may have to reconsider other sites and there may be a net loss in houses, meaning that other new sites may come into the Local Plan not previously considered to make up any shortfall, so there are consequences, with our stance.

Although we have considered past uses of the field there was a strong feeling in the meeting that we need to look ahead to the future use of the site, work on the aspirations we have and be prepared to embrace it as an asset to the village, which may mean fund raising. An offer was made to work up an artist's impression of the field as a green space to submit with the response to show that the support and aspirations are very real. This offer was gratefully accepted. Let us show that we have a shared vision for the future of the land.

It was underlined that there is still a current planning application not yet determined for the pub field. If you make comments on it in the Local Plan response, then please also comment on the planning application. There is time to make comments, additional comments to others already made. The in-depth study that has gone on in the last few weeks, has thrown up things that could be used. Also there are still comments / objections made by professional organisations that were consulted that are still needed to be complied with before the application can be properly determined. So please do make comments on both. David thanked Peter and Carol for all the work they have both put in with the preparation work on the documents and helping keeping him on the straight and narrow.

5. Plea for photos and remembrances relating to the Pub Field

This was covered in the previous item.

6. Other responses to the Local Plan

A draft response had also been previously circulated and was going to pick up anything else apart from the pub field at Site S36. Once again if there are any comments that people want to add please come forward with your thoughts.

7. Aims, vision and purpose of the Village Forum

This had been agreed at a previous meeting and everyone was happy that it did not need amending at the moment:

- To maintain the quality of life for all in the village
- To generate issues that could be put to the Parish Council
- To re-kindle community spirit and engender friendship
- To build a social feeling in the village
- To suggest things that will bring people together

With a Vision to create and develop a positive community spirit.

8. Setting an agenda for future meetings

Ideas put forward include developing pride in the village, finding things needed to improve the look of the village, such as tatty street name signs, untidy areas, strimming, litter on the rec, people were asked to look at their corners of the village to see what could be done to spruce the village up.

In the event that we achieve “No Build” on the Kings Head Field, or even reduced build, the issue of “who pays for the Green Space” and how the Village could raise funding was discussed. It has been suggested we need to see if anyone in our midst has experience in “professional fund sourcing / raising” and everyone is asked to put feelers out and report back please.

The problem of 4x4s using the byway along Blindgroom’s Lane, plus the Hornash Lane / Church Lane where the edges were being destroyed was raised.

The urgent need to chase BT Open Reach about Broadband & Telephone services was raised. The PC have it on the ‘To Do’ list.

9. Any other business

It was raised that we need to publicise the Forum more. Suggestions included a banner on the fence and details about the Forum on the PC website, with updates. The website will be upgraded in the coming months to make it more up to date and user friendly. Details of this meeting had been put on the Shadoxhurst Facebook page. It was thought that we should use this more. Details also should go in the Parish magazine.

We are moving the Tuesday Coffee afternoon do to a weekly slot 2-4 as we feel it is confusing having it fortnightly to see if we can build up a regular attendance. Please come along and if you can help, that would be even better.

10. Date of next meeting

Date not set but will be in early September. David thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.