

Present:

Keith Smith	Sandra Rendall	Maureen Penny	Paul Newton-Smith
Ken Saunders	Jo Clark	Helen Harris	Shirley Colbeck-Smith
Peter Arnel	Sarah Olnier	Claire Smith	Joe Gassman

1. Apologies:
Alison Durant Anthea Beaumont
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:
Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by PNS Seconded by Ken S
3. Matters Arising: none
4. Chairman's Report:
 - KS had been doing an online course on Sustainable Communities, which had included a Forum and debate
 - Connecting People, Connecting Places – There is new thinking with SBC that because SWRDA will withdraw all funding in April 2010, they need to look outside the town centre and be more community minded and look at the wider area. They have formed a new company NEWCO. KS is a rep for the NE sector.
5. Vice Chairman's Report:
 - Council update – John Short has been put forward as our SB Councillor again along with Melanie Duff and Anthony Peake.
 - MP attended a CP2 meeting where all cluster managers were present. A year on and nothing has been produced, there is no credibility. It has now noticed by CP2 council managers that the towns included in the NE cluster are not working. Each town should be treated on its own needs not as a whole.
 - HTC invited HCPG to bid for and has gained a grant of £50K for Recreation Park at Northview to be rebuilt as adventure playground made of natural materials for hard play. Congratulations to Maureen Penny for her sterling efforts in obtaining grant.
 - Other Matters – Fox Roundabout. MP had spoken to Cally Arkell for a figure, they will most probably only pay for the sculpture. TSTech are giving HCPG £1500. We need to look for other monies. MP and KS to attend a meeting with Sara Tough next week.
6. Grassroots Grant – Applications had to be in by 29th Jan, £100k available to 20/30 organisations to develop communities. Due to adverse weather conditions time was limited KS did a quick bid (2 days) for £4k. Ken S went to a meeting on the 19th Jan which wasn't a Grassroots meeting. We discussed ways of spending money – rolling advertisement screen for High Street (Mortgages Mainly window?) possible sponsorship from WiFi, results due 1st March.
7. WiFi in Highworth and Social Inclusion: Ricki Hunt in charge of WiFi. It was felt that it was a bad launch. Regarding social inclusion KS had sent a letter to Rod Bluh saying we are ready for regeneration
8. Job Club update: Still going strong. Many had now found employment. Remind HBG that if they have any job vacancies to consider those at job club first or advertise to those living in Highworth.

Unemployment amongst 18-25 year olds was high in Highworth. We need to find out why?

9. Members Business:

Pentylands– Battle of the Bands, Aug 2010 , a couple of grants had been put in to support this

- British Trust for Volunteers still going strong, they can provide HCPG with volunteers when needed.
- Community Orchard – 20 trees have now been donated. HBG are talking about funding a dwarf stock re cider making.
- Wiltshire World Change meeting, helping communities to help themselves. Step Up (finance via charities information) some funding available.

HAFFT – to follow

Year of Arts and Culture – Promoting this Saturday with town crier and giving out booklets.

- April 17th in community rooms, a chance for groups to promote themselves

Village Green Status – The land at Barra Close has been designated Village Green status and will be protected forever and is the only one in Wiltshire. SBC councillors have agreed that fences will have to come down once the paperwork is in. Well done to Joe Gassman and residents, along with MP from HCPG who carried it forward.

AOB

SCS – Group discussion. Possibility of Community Notice board in entrance of library. HCPG to have a space and think about running a drop in centre to get started. Alison Jordan, Libraries and Cluster Lead to March meeting to discuss. Also Sara Tough, Communities to attend.

KS – With regard to the state of the bookies. Had written a letter with not a brilliant response, but there are people interested.

MP – May Day, Council have agreed to close street

JC – National Trust, Coleshill want to restore Guardhouse, do re enactments or WWII. HCPG will do a letter of support

PNS - Website. Have a page to let people know what we have been doing. Domain name Highworth Hub – maybe get it up and running with different groups using to let know what's happening, not commercial. PNS would do the work for free. How many hits for next meeting.

SR – Bovril have a grant f £100k available (5 x 20K) unfortunately we do not fit their remit.

Next meeting

Wednesday March 3rd in the Library