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Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 5th March 2008 at 7pm

The Council Community Rooms, Highworth

Meeting chaired by Keith Smith

1. Present:

Keith Smith; Shirley Colbeck-Smith; Alison Durrant; Claire Smith; Jo Clark; Joanne Cook; Ann Lewis; Tom Aherne;

Visitors:

Karen and Paul Burchett (Post Office); Ken Saunders; Sarah Oliver; David Holden; Malcolm Holbrook; Jane Hunt

Apologies:

Peter Hinton; Paul Newton Smith; Sandra Rendall; Ian Young; Charles Coffin; Nicki Coyne; Caroline Starling; Kati Wood

2. Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by **JC** seconded by **AL**.

3. Matters Arising:

None

4. Correspondence and updates on MCTi

Stronger Community Conference – KS Letter from Baroness Andrews via Michael Wills MP – will send KS presentations and documents from the conference that HCPG could not go to as not enough places.

MCTi –KS Letter from James Hassett, Chief executive MCTi explaining that although offices will close on 30th June 2008, and Charles Coffin will be leaving his post, there will be support in place to ensure plan is completed. There will be SWRDA funds available for next three years.

KS – noted that support from Swindon Borough Council has been good.

Action for Market Towns – KS Letter explaining membership has been renewed for another year.

Sustainable Transport – KS Letter from Helen Hand asking the HCPG to formerly support the Sustainable Transport System document. Group decided that HCPG couldn't be seen to endorse this as 'outside the brief of HCPG' and cannot set a precedent. **KS to write letter to this effect.**

Questions from group: DH What happens next? KS replied that a new organisation will be set up to replace the HCPG and to carry the plan forward. TA gave examples of Tidworth and Pershore where they are working on implementing their plans.

5. The Plan:

Writing. KS Introduced Jane Hunt who will be writing the plan.

Timescales: KS Keith to email details to all sub group leaders. Raw content to be delivered to Jane Hunt by 14th March. First draft to be ready for 5th April. Final version to be ready for typesetting by Pastiche on 18th April 2008.

Printing: KS Group members made various suggestions for local printers. AD Highworth Press: CS Citrus.

Launch: KS Need a vision that can be shared with community so they feel the plan belongs to them. JH suggested creating a large mind-map to be displayed, CS suggested that pupils from Warneford could be involved.

Project Priorities: KS The main project will be the one that has the initial SWRDA funds allocated to it. Funds available for 7 days consultancy. Suggestion that this should be for the market place/high street review. Other projects can start at same time, or later as funds become available.

Reports Back:

- **Tourist – JCI** Examples of ways that tourism could be developed in the town.
- **Environment – TA.** Large number of people from community attended the environment open meeting in Church Room. Many ideas generated. TA noticed that many common themes developing between sub groups - hopes these can be captured in the plan.
Well established Group with plans for a wetland area already in progress.
- **Social and Community - SCS** Gave a number of examples of the projects that have been discussed at the sub group meetings.

- **Economic – KS** Gave many examples of the projects that could be undertaken. Discussion about developing a niche market in town, suggestions from the group included wool, cheese and brick related business.

KS – Rob Gillespie, a local town planner, and Peter Finlayson walked around the town and did an initial review of possible ways to enhance the town. Examples given of areas in Bath and Delft where similar initiatives to improve the streets has been undertaken.

Group Discussion – DH asked whether there were any bike racks.

Re Car parking : Paul from the Post Office commented that you need something to do all the way from where you park your car to where you are heading.

KS – mentioned that he is hoping to ask urban design consultant Ben Hamilton-Baillie to create a street scene plan for Highworth.

- **Transport and Accessibility – KS**

Some of this has been undertaken as part of the environment group. Halcrow have undertaken study of a potential cycle track between Highworth and Swindon.

- **106 money-** KS led discussion on ensuring Highworth always secures the 106 monies that are available.
- **Stonehouse** – KS will be visiting Stonehouse to see how their plan has been implemented, particularly the street scene.

7. **Members business**

AL – has had to go ahead and order signage for the recreation centre even though it would have been pragmatic to wait until more facilities could have been included on the signs.

KS – Issue of isolation of Highworth Town Council – need to re-engage them in HCPG.

KS – Survey being conducted on Blackworth industrial estate.

KS – Highworth could be the secondary shopping centre for the new housing developments on the eastern flank of Swindon. HCPG (or its successor) needs to be proactive in acquiring the 106 monies.

AD comment – Need to be proactive, i.e. researching and being aware of future trends e.g. in population and its impact on housing etc; and be ready to apply for 106 monies.

AL – not time to give her presentation on the Rec,

AL – Extreme sports event at Warneford; mobile skate park event at Westrop.

CS - Hyper 10-19 consultation. Questions have gone out to primary schools but needs some revision before it goes to Warneford.

8. AOB

JCI - May Day 2009 event has been approved and will go ahead.

AL – Pool on target to be open in June. Triathlon to be included as part of the Festival of Highworth.

**Date and time of next meeting is Wednesday 2nd April 2008 at 7pm in
The Council Community Rooms**