

Dore Neighbourhood Forum

Third Steering Group meeting 9th March 2016

Present: **Christopher Pennell** (CP), David Crosby (DC), Thelma Harvey (TH), Pat Ryan (PR), Keith Shaw (KS).

Apologies

1. Apologies for absence were received from David Bearpark, David Heslop and Andy Pack. Jen Donnelly was not present. Thelma Harvey kindly agreed to take the minutes in David Bearpark's absence.

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2016

2. The minutes were agreed as a correct record

Matters arising from the minutes

3. There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered by the agenda

Matters arising on the minutes

Item 4 – DC to update contact list

4. DC provided an updated contact list (2 new working group members have been gained as a result of CP DtoD article).

Item 5 – AP to provide updated pack of information in DVS room.

5. **AP** was unable to attend the meeting but met with **KS** after the last Steering Group and has **undertaken to liaise with KS and CP** about the publicity strategy and the summaries to go on the village notice boards. **AP will also set up the hard copy file** of all Working Group and Steering Groups minutes ready to be viewed by Dore residents in the DVS meeting room and to do so in such a fashion that the file could be replicated on the website. It was agreed that AP should be asked to update the file every week. **CP undertook to write to the secretaries** of all the Working Groups to ask them to send all minutes to all members of the Steering Group thus ensuring that AP has copy for the file.

Item 6 – KS to address inclusion in DVS website

6. Documents relating to Dore Neighbourhood Forum are on the website. As the consultation proceeds agendas and minutes of Steering Group and Working Group meetings will be added in chronological order to correspond with the hard copies of information available in the DVS meeting room.

Item 7 – CP to provide article for Dore to Door

7. This has been published as an impressive two page spread. As the magazine goes to every house in the village this is a big contribution to the DNF consultation.

Item 8 – CP to write to SCC and PDNPA.

8. This has been actioned, see Minute 11 below (reply from Sara Smith SCC). No reply has been received from PDNPA.

Item 12 – Possible joint meeting with Broomhall and Stocksbridge NF Teams

9. It was felt that it is Sarah Smith who should be arranging any meetings rather than the Steering Group. DC has sent a copy of the current draft Neighbourhood Plan to Broomhill as they expressed interest.

Item 14 – DC and KS to ensure all members have a full text of the existing draft Neighbourhood Plan

10. DC confirmed that the draft Neighbourhood Plan on the DVS website is the latest version but the header needs updating to reflect this. DC felt that a complete new draft will soon be needed to encompass all the changes that have been suggested. DC stressed that it must be made very clear when the new draft is put on the website that this is still a *Draft for consultation*.

E-mail (2/2/16) from Sarah Smith to CP on SCC recommendations on good practice for Neighbourhood Planning

11. CP wrote to SCC and PDNPA to introduce himself as Chair of the Steering Group and to send them both a copy of his article for Dore to Door in advance of its circulation. Sarah Smith, Area Planner for South West Area and Nether Edge Ward, Forward and Area Planning Team replied on behalf of SCC. Her email sets out the criteria given by SCC in agreeing the designation of DNF. These have not changed but Sarah has emphasised in this email the importance SCC attaches to full and adequate consultation on DNF proposals. Her email was used to inform the discussion around the agenda item on consultation.

First meetings of the 7 Working Groups

Significant issues emerging

12. DC reported that many fundamental issues were being discussed as new people in the groups brought new perspectives. It is proving very helpful to have fresh eyes on many issues with a lot of positive and philosophical discussion about what the DNF is trying to achieve. DC felt that some of the objections that have been raised to DNF plans so far have been due to lack of understanding of the issues rather than reasoned counter proposals, but there were some key issues and challenges which required SC consideration.

Review of Working Group minutes

13. The minutes of the Working Groups were reviewed. All of the groups have met at least once since the last Steering Group. It was noted that attendance at some groups has been disappointing and that efforts should be made by **all Steering and Working Group members to recruit more members to the groups with low numbers and to encourage fuller attendance.** Action points arising from the working group minutes were considered under the item on consultation on the Steering Group agenda.

Chairmanship and Secretary of the Working Groups

14. The issue of persuading members of the Working Groups to act as Chair and Secretary was discussed at some length. At present DC is acting as Chair for all the Working Groups, with greater success being achieved in finding members to act as secretary. The Steering Group is concerned about reports that some Working Group members felt that the DVS presence on the Groups was ‘heavy handed’ and that their comments were not listened to, resulting in them feeling that the letter inviting them to join the Group was at odds with the reality of the meeting. The Steering Group wishes to remedy this situation and felt that that having such a strong DVS presence at all Working Groups could be giving some members the impression that DVS is in charge of the consultation rather than the DNF. To some extent this has been unavoidable as DC has needed to be at all the Groups in the first instance to set the scene, plus there is a large dual membership of the DVS and DNF. It was suggested that the emphasis for future meetings should be in ensuring that Working Group members realise that it is their suggestions and recommendations which will be part of the wider consultation. It was also thought that further efforts should be made to encourage Working Group members to take on the role of Chair and thus increase their sense of ‘ownership’ of the Group. If these efforts prove unsuccessful in some cases, it was decided that verbal but minuted agreement should be reached by the Working Group that DC should continue in the role of Chair and that it should be noted in the Working Group minutes that DC accepted the role but only because no-one else was willing to do it. **DC to explain this to each WG meeting.**

Consultation – what is needed and how to handle

Philosophy of consultation as it relates to DNF and the DNP

15. This was the major agenda item of the meeting and it was decided that although DNF is very aware of the need to consult widely, it is not a straightforward matter to decide who should carry out the various parts of the consultation. The Steering Group used comments from CP and an email received from Martin Dudley from the Neighbourhood Centre Working Group to guide and inform their discussion. Different stages and forms of consultation were considered:
- securing evidence and ideas

- deliberative consultation, which is a collective interactive stage where issues are shaken out and evidence emerges as to whether proposals are likely to secure support
- accountable decision making, which describes the results of deliberative consultation, this allowing recommendations to be presented which have the backing of evidence produced by the Working Groups and accepted by the Steering Group to become part of the draft DNP which will provide the major part of the formative stage of the consultation and be part of the exhibition in Dore Village. It was felt that the Working Groups should play a major part in all of these stages and have the freedom to carry out any consultation they feel necessary to arrive at the recommendations which they present to the Steering Group.

The formative stage of the consultation

16. There was discussion about the nature of the presentation of this stage of the consultation. It was decided that when all recommendations received by the Working Groups and accepted by the Steering Group have been incorporated into the latest DNP an exhibition will be held at a venue in Dore Village to gather further opinions from as wide an audience as possible. This will be in mid-summer 2016 and will be the principal subject of the next Steering Group meeting (**CP to arrange**).

Specific action points and questions arising from the Working Groups

17. As these reports mainly relate to consultation they have been included under the broad heading of Consultation.

Peak District Group – one member of this group queried if the Peak District National Park section of Dore had to be part of the DNF remit, feeling that there are too many layers of planning within the Park. The Steering Group firmly endorsed that it is, and should be, part of the DNF remit. DNF has been designated by both SCC and PDNPA as the body to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the entire area of historic Dore, which includes a significant section of the eastern National Park.

Green Belt Group – the direct actions from this group are: to consult the residents of Long Line about possible further infill along the frontage of Long Line: to consult the owner of the former sports field site on the corner of Cross Lane and Hathersage Road on the suggestion that the site be returned to sports use or agriculture.

There was much discussion by the Steering Group about the advisability of ‘offering’ any sites for potential development for houses within Dore, including Green Belt sites, to SCC. SCC wishes to plan for building 43,000 new dwellings overall across the city by 2034 and PR wondered whether DNF should try to be constructive in making modest proposals for Dore. DC and CP pointed out that the ‘City Options for Growth’ document (which is SCC’s latest consultation document on where these houses should be) says little about any intention to build in Dore Neighbourhood and even if SCC think there is a need for 500 houses on ad hoc green belt sites in the city as a whole, there is no obligation on DNF to identify any such

potential sites in Dore and every reason not to do so given the strong SCC comments in that document about the particular importance of the green belt buffering the National Park.

Housing Group – members of the group have ‘surveyed’ selected areas for housing character and are building up pen-portraits of the character, housing types, diversity, density etc of these areas. Consulting residents about those draft pen-portraits could be very energising and rewarding and should be contemplated, but the only formal group which needed to be consulted about their housing area was Totley Residents Association.

Open Spaces Group – Two additional open spaces not included in the last DNP were identified by this group, the open land around Abbeydale Sports and Social Club and the King Egbert School playing fields. Two individual consultations would be required and delicately worded to emphasise that no change of ownership is proposed, but that the potential benefits of open space designation to the community might be stressed. Included in the last DNP is a proposal that an additional area of open space might be added by purchase from the private owner to the Totley Brook Green Space for recreation and amenity purposes.

Conservation Group – one of the proposals made by this group was that the Council should designate a Conservation Area at lower Dore Road and Abbeydale Road South to include Water Lane and the Royal Mail Sorting Office. The Steering Group thought it important that the type of consultation for this proposal was carefully thought through and that a meeting with residents should take place where what was meant by a Conservation Area was explained and what it would mean in this instance was fully discussed. It was important not only to explain the proposal, but also to consult on it in an interactive way which might build support for the proposal from those most affected.

Neighbourhood Centre Group – this group felt that a consultation letter should be produced by the Steering Group to be circulated to Neighbourhood Centre shops, offices and community facilities owners. They also recommended the benefits of having face to face discussions. The Steering group endorsed such a proposal.

Sustainable Transport Group – this group felt that the present recommendations in the DNP should be expanded to include more detailed proposals around issues concerning Dore & Totley station and that close liaison with the Friends of Dore & Totley Station (FODATS) group is needed. Also proposals around traffic management, bus routes, car parking will need extensive consultation.

Available budgets and grants

18. DC produced a table of the expenses incurred so far in consulting on the DNP. These totalled £936.41, for the 12th November 2015 meeting at King Egbert School. DC feels DNF may be able to draw down further grants from SCC towards expenses. KS explained that DVS has allocated £11k to DNF to be used in the event that no further grants are forthcoming.

Any Other Business

- 19.** It was decided that the Steering Group should have an extra meeting devoted to publicity and how best to engage Dore residents and Businesses to comment on the DNP.

Next meeting

- 20.** It was agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Group will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th April 2016.

Thelma Harvey

16th March 2016