

# Ruishton and Thornfalcon Neighbourhood Plan

## Meeting of Volunteers

### Notes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Present:** Steering group members – Mike Marshall, Jim Claydon and Roy Bulgin.  
Other volunteers: Dave Duke, Mike Hellings, Susan Sherry, Alex Sully, Caroline El Abbar, Julia Curtis, Stewart Thorne, Ian Tucker, John Capstick, Judy Cottrell, Brian Parkes, Patrick Lewis, Catherine Faulkner.  
SCC: Sunita Mills, Nisha Devani

#### **1. Apologies:**

Bridget Dickinson, Andrew Gunstone, Doug Lowe, Andrew Lukes

#### **2. Sunita Mills (SM), SCC Service Commissioning manager: Transport Policy**

Gave an insight into SCC Transport Policies in relation to the Parish, especially plans to upgrade the roundabout at J25 of the M5 and the planning process to date.

- SM's role is to support strategic transport schemes in Somerset.
- SCC will support local neighbourhood plan processes
- Census data for Taunton Deane shows that;
  - 56% of journeys are under 6 miles
  - 45% of journeys are under 3 miles
  - 12% of people work from home
  - 10% of people do not have a car
- Ruishton Parish;
  - 70% drive to work (60% Taunton Deane figure)
  - 5% are passengers
- The possible use of CIL money could be to improve safety on the walking route to the P&R
- Local county councillor can apply for the funding for small infrastructure improvements.

#### J25 Roundabout Improvements

- SM – the new additional roundabout and arm to the existing roundabout ties up with SCC's old scheme for a Henlade bypass. (Highways England are yet to consult on or decide on any route as yet)
- SCC High Growth scenario includes taking into account the increase in traffic from the new Employment site.

- Funding Bids are in place to fund improvements to Toneway and Creech Castle but not secured yet.
- Improvements to the Toneway corridor are an aspiration of the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership)
- Sustrans are looking at cycle and path links across the m/way to Taunton.
- Highways England have a fund for sustainable travel.
- The upgrade of the J25 roundabout is in the current Local Transport Plan but not in detail
- Timings – expected to start on site March 2018 and will be a 2 year build

### **3. Draft Household Questionnaire**

There was discussion on the draft Household questionnaire previously circulated regarding the number of topics, the proposed questions and questionnaire size and layout.

A draft questionnaire drawing together the thoughts of those who have contributed (Action JC) will be sent to Community Council for Somerset (CCS) for them to advise and format on the basis of their experience of working with other parish councils and having meaningful analysis in mind.

Agreed that it is important to identify the community of Ash in the foreword.

Also discussed was the best way to get maximum community input. Agreed that engaging with schools and young people is a good idea.

### **4. Identification of Topic Groups**

List of Topic Leaders as agreed. Please note that as Andrew Lukes and Bridget Dickinson were unable to be at the meeting their agreement to lead the topics suggested has yet to be confirmed.

Topic Leaders:

Web – Dave Duke

Community – Julia Curtis

Environment – Sue Sherry, Judy Cottrell

Leisure & Recreation – Stewart Thorne, Patrick Lewis/Ruishton FC representative

Heritage – Andrew Lukes (tbc)

Education – Caroline El Abbar

Transport – Ian Tucker, Alex Sully

Employment – John Capstick, Mike Hellings

Housing – Bridget Dickinson (tbc)

Topic group facilitator – Brian Parkes

All were asked to come forward with a collective name for the Group other than “volunteers”.

Individuals shouldn't feel constrained to only contribute to their own group but to share ideas and information.

Topic groups were encouraged to think about the sort of information they will need to make evidence-based proposals for the future. Also to identify interested individuals who may be able to assist.

### **5. Updates – since previous meeting**

CCS have been appointed to assist with the Household Survey and a Housing Needs Survey. They will also support us with bids for grants to pay for their services. Neighbourhood Plan web page is ready to be activated on the Ruishton website [www.ruishton.org.uk](http://www.ruishton.org.uk)

Work to begin on Locality grant application

Appointment by the Parish Council of a Neighbourhood Plan Administrator is imminent.

Logo has been produced

### **6. Next Steps**

Intention to have a stall at the monthly produce market when there is something to show or when use as information or volunteer gathering occasion. Topic groups may wish to use these occasions to consult or gather information etc.

Mike H suggested we should be working towards a "Vision" for the Neighbourhood Plan. This will start to emerge as we get the opinions of residents from the household survey (post meeting Jim C will draft and circulate something which identifies the kind of content that such a statement might contain for discussion at next meeting)

Topic groups to report back at next meeting on progress.

### **7. Date Next Meeting**

Date to be advised end October/early November