

Dore Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum meeting on 12 November 2015 at 7.30pm at King Egbert School

Despite the change of date and inclement weather it was pleasing to note that **56 DVS members attended** the meeting. This number included 20 members who were also representing a partner who was also a member of the DVS.

The DVS Chairman, Keith Shaw (KS), thanked members for attending, despite the weather. He hoped that members had found the detailed material circulated both interesting and informative. It had been quite a challenging and costly logistical exercise to circulate all the material; and he asked all those who had not so far given their email contact details to the secretary to do so. This would make future communication easier.

The **purpose of the meeting** was set out by KS, and highlighted with a PowerPoint presentation, as being:

- To present the recommendations of the 2012 working groups.
- To provide members with an opportunity to offer any initial reactions to these recommendations.
- To invite members to join new working groups, which will review these recommendations and develop proposals for a draft Dore Neighbourhood Plan.

KS also recounted the background to the work of the DVS committee in the preparation in 2012 of a proposed Neighbourhood Plan. This process had then stalled whilst the DVS and the City had extensive discussions about the DVS becoming a Neighbourhood Forum -- and this was then confirmed in Autumn 2014.

With this formal designation, the Dore Neighbourhood Forum (i.e. all members of the DVS) now needed to develop its proposed Neighbourhood Plan. The intention was to use as the basis of this, the extensive work undertaken in 2012; but also to look again in detail at all the core elements.

This was followed by an informative PowerPoint presentation by David Crosby(DCr).

In this presentation, he succinctly and clearly explained the work of each of the 2012 working groups and highlighted the **vision and aims which** were produced at the time, following their work in respect of each of the following topics:

- Sheffield Green Belt
- Housing Areas
- Peak District Eastern Moorland Fringe
- Open Spaces
- Conservation and archaeology
- Village Centre
- Sustainable Transport.

A **question and answer session** followed. This prompted much interest from the attendees with questions that were skilfully answered by DCr and included:

- Why the emphasis on a strong strategic stance with respect to the Green Belt?

- Has the Neighbourhood Forum got any legally binding powers?
- Does the Neighbourhood Forum have a view on fracking?
- How is the cost being borne for the work involved in producing the Neighbourhood Plan?
- What procedures are in place to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan accords with the Local Plans of Sheffield City Council and the Peak Park District Planning Authority?
- Are gardens deemed brown field sites?
- Within the Neighbourhood Plan are there any plans to look at the bus service?
- What statutory obligations does the Neighbourhood Forum have with respect for example to housing need?
- Can Dore isolate itself from the national need for more housing?
- Does the Neighbourhood Forum have any teeth?
- What is the lifespan of the Neighbourhood Forum?

A further issue was raised with respect to **car parking and highways** in Dore. KS took the opportunity to explain that whilst this is outside the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan, the recent progress that has been made, following iterations that began in about 1965 in this respect, can be used to demonstrate how the development of the centre of the village is perceived. DVS members demonstrated appreciation that at last, and subject to public consultation, progress was being made with respect to the issue of car parking in the village centre.

By way of conclusion, KS summarised **the next steps** in the process, as follows:

- Formation of the new working groups.
- The working groups to review the 2012 recommendations and tonight's responses, undertake further consultation, consider further the underlying issues and then produce detailed recommendations.
- The consolidation of this into a Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan by a Steering Group
- Presentation to a meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum of this proposed Plan for its consideration and approval.
- The publication within Dore of this Draft Plan for public consultation.
- There is also the need for the Draft Plan then to undergo a compliance assessment and be examined by an independent external examiner.
- The Draft Plan is then put to a referendum. All those then on the electoral role in Dore will be eligible to vote; the result being decided by a simple majority.
- If successful, the Neighbourhood Development Plan will then be adopted by the Sheffield City Council and the Peak Park and form part of their Area wide Plans.

KS emphasised the need for as wide a range of participants to be involved in this process as possible, both on the working groups and the Steering Group. The work so far had been managed by a small group of DVS committee members (Keith Shaw, David Crosby, David Bearpark, Christopher Pennell and David Heslop). He wished particularly:

- To seek the approval of this meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum to those individuals continuing as members of the Steering Group.
- To invite others to join the Steering Group, so that it was not just composed of DVS committee members.
- To invite those interested in joining the working groups to contact David Crosby.

The draft terms of reference of the Steering Group were outlined, basically being to co-ordinate the whole process, to prepare the initial Draft Neighbourhood Plan for approval by the Forum and to handle the remaining steps in the process.

The meeting voted unanimously for the five individuals mentioned to continue as members of the Steering Group.

KS thanked those present for attending the inaugural meeting of the Dore Neighbourhood Forum. The process was going to be a lengthy and possibly a challenging one. But this Forum is probably the largest and most representative body in the country formally in charge of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. It was the intention that normal future communications about meetings etc would be via email, the DVS notice board and the DVS website.

NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting of the Forum, three members have offered to join the Steering Group, with further members joining the working groups, making a total of 28 non-DVS committee members on those groups. There have also been two offers of general help.

David Bearpark
November 2015