

# West Dean Parish Council

## Parish Plan Inaugural Meeting Held at West Dean Centre at The West Dean Centre on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Those Present: Kate Baugh of GRCC, Councillors I Hendy, R Gwynne, D Huxford, B Whittington, R Freshwater, R Wintle, I Coghlan, R Barnett, K Spencer, I Standing and Members of the Public GILL & John Badham, Gary Brown, Kate de Selincourt and Patrick Gibbard. Notes taken by Clive Hooper.

Ian Hendy, Chairman of West Dean Parish Council, introduced Kate Baugh of GRCC who then led the meeting.

Issues raised were:

- Community Plans are driven by the Community and should be divorced totally from the Parish Council until the Action Plan Stage. Parish Councillors who are on Steering Committees should only be involved with a "watching brief".
- Community Plans (CP's) need to start with the current situation in the Community; its background history; current services and schools; vision for the future and what the issues are that need to be addressed.
- The initial meetings of Steering Committees will be to decide the issues in the Community.
- The Principal Authorities have a duty to involve and engage in consultation, and whilst CP's are not Statutory Documents, they can heavily influence decisions.
- The profile of CP's are rising all the time. FODDC does read CP's in deciding policy. All Parish and Community Plans are available on the GRCC website.
- Once the current "issues" are established in each of the Communities, a Questionnaire is produced. Help will be required in the distribution and collection of the questionnaires and a minimum 50% response will be required. Expert analysis of the questionnaires will be undertaken by GRCC.
- A separate Questionnaire needs to be produced for Children and Young People.
- The CP's will provide the necessary evidence of need for Grant Aid Applications; will provide evidence for planning, environmental and heritage issues.
- The Steering groups each need to be a minimum of 6 volunteers with a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings will normally be monthly or 6-weekly with extra assistance with distribution and collection of Questionnaires.

- Money will be needed for printing of Questionnaires and the final Plan together with incidental expenses in progressing each plan.
- It is envisaged that the Plan will be completed within one year and placed before the Parish Council for adoption.
- Following the analysis of the Questionnaires and establishment of the issues, an Action Plan needs to be produced. The Steering Groups will need to liaise with the Parish Council in setting a timetable for delivery of the needs established.
- It was suggested that the 5 Community Steering Committees be set up by the end of November and meet early in December.

NORTHERN STEERING COMMITTEE; Berry Hill, Christchurch, Five Acres, Joyford, Shortstanding and Edge End.

CENTRAL STEERING COMMITTEE; Ellwood, Sling, Clements End, Little Drybrook

BREAM STEERING GROUP; Bream, Brockhollands

CANNOP BROOK STEERING COMMITTEE; Whitecroft, Saunders Green, Parkend, Cannop, Barracks, Moseley Green and Speech House

EAST STEERING COMMITTEE; Pillowell, Yorkley, Viney Hill and Oldcroft