

Neighbourhood Plan – Open Spaces, Leisure and Sport.

Notes of a meeting of the **Topic Group-Open Spaces, Leisure and Sport** held on the **20th April 2017** at **4pm** in the Town Council Chamber: -

Present: Cllr S Lister(Chairman), Mr T Abel (Vice-Chair), Mr Pilcher, Mr & Mrs Farrant, Mr R Ewart (Football Club), Mr M Booth (Hamonds Academy), Mrs J Anscomb, Cllr P Darby, Mrs S Palmer, Mr E Nye (Rugby Club), Mr P Harris, Mr P Young & Mr P Bealey (Parkwood Community Leisure), Mr I Tracy (Myers Field Trust), Mr G Edwards (SCALGA)*, Mr I Grange (Active Norfolk)*, Mr R Horn, Mrs P Medlock (SPA)*, Mrs M Chacksfield, Mr D Wickerson (Town Team)

Town Clerk: Mr R Bishop

Admin Assistant: Ms K Furnass

1. **Introductions:**

Cllr Lister welcomes everyone to the meeting and asks for a brief introduction from around the table.

2. **Apologies:**

Mr Rob Parsonage

3. **Agree notes of previous meeting:**

The meeting notes of 15th March 2017 were agreed and accepted.

4. **Discussion Points:**

For the benefit of the guest's the Town Clerk starts the meeting with a brief overview of what a Neighbourhood Plan document is.

The guests were then asked how they see their own club/organisation moving forward in the next 25years, what were their aspirations for the future?

- a. Mr Nye (Rugby Club) The club are happy with their resources and the facilities they already have and do not foresee any additional requirements for the immediate future. They are in the position of being the land owners.
- b. Mr R Ewart (Football Club) The club have already outgrown their facilities and rely heavily on Myers Field to accommodate them. They are very restricted on how they can move forward and are more than happy to be involved in any future plans and talks.
- c. Mr I Tracy (Myers Field) Our land is used by the football club, cricket club & the bowls club. We are a Charitable Trust but it is a challenging task to keep up.
- d. Mr T Abel (Abel Homes) The group need to think big, look ahead. What areas could be amalgamated for a joint sporting facility? Are there options for moving around facilities?
- e. Mr D Wickerson (Town Team) Endorses looking outside the box for the bigger picture. The Town Team are already considering the possibility of a Park Run facility.
- f. Mr G Edwards (SCALGA) Mr Edwards asks how sports facilities and allotments fit together in this process.
Responses include how land allocation can be used to benefit multiple groups. As an example, the football ground is next to Myers Field, if the land adjacent to the West & North of this area were ever to come available it would be advantages to relocate the allotments allowing the possibility of a large enough area for a combined sports complex to be built. This is only one of many possibilities that could be looked at but gives a good example of how land can be allocated, if it were available, for the benefit of multiple groups coming together.
- g. Mr P Bealy (Sports Centre) Mr P Young (Parkwood Community Leisure) They explain that the Sports Centre main court is available to the public outside of school hours but the squash courts and gym are available during all opening hours. This is how most centres are run. Parkwood Leisure are very keen to be included in any plans and discussions going forward. There are also ongoing talks with NCC and Hamonds at this time.

- h. Mrs P Medlock (SPA) There are ongoing plans for a pool on land next to Waitrose. The Committee are concerned about the timeline of the Neighbourhood Plan and do not want to hold back their project from moving forward.
- i. Mr I Grange (Active Norfolk) The draft "Evidence Base for Indoor & Built Sports & Recreational Facilities" from Breckland DC contains all the evidence needed and will help to justify asking for a feasibility study.

Also in the discussions, many questions were raised about how the towns facilities could cope with the additional population that would come with any new developments. Are there enough places in the schools, are the sport facilities big enough, is there land on which to extend? These questions can also be asked of all the other organisations & clubs. By talking together and coming forward now with ideas there will be a clearer vision of what everyone really wants for the next 25 years. By finding out what facilities are available now, when they are available, and who could benefit by sharing, this would make better use of the spaces/facilities the town already has.

Summary & Additional Information:

1. Review of additional circulated data from Planning Consultant

The Town Clerk explained the additional information that was circulated to the Chair & Vice Chair. This needed to be shared with the wider group as members had not received it. The Town Clerk confirmed all documentation was being uploaded to the Council website.

The Town Clerk confirmed 8 files were circulated prior to the meeting to the Chair & Vice Chair and an additional 3 files were circulated at the meeting:

- Liz Wrigley Consultant
- Design Consultant
- D W Hoey; a detailed 13-page report and observations for each group to consider.

The Chair & Vice Chair will be asked to share all information with members.

There is a set of additional information gathered from the Consultants that was not yet circulated. The Town Clerk confirmed he will summarise the information for the groups. All information will be retained in the Correspondence Folder at the Town Hall and members of the Group are welcome to come in and read through the information at their leisure.

The Town Clerk has agreed to summarise the information from the Consultants for the groups.

- a. The Town Clerk gave a brief explanation of Section 106 money and how it has previously been allocated. It was explained that the Council are involved from the start in what they would like their % of the monies spent on.
- b. Funding for football, cricket & rugby are from separate centres.
- c. Active Norfolk are very keen on the ideas put forward at the meeting, especially the Park Run. They ask to be involved in any talks and offer for all to make use of them in an advisory capacity.
- d. Similarly, with Parkwood Leisure, they are open to any ideas to improve facilities in Swaffham.
- e. Can our existing facilities be turned into a commercial leisure/tourism venture, is this a possibility worth considering?
- f. It was suggested for the sports clubs to consider long term investment in artificial pitches? There could be funding available for the individual sports.
- g. With more developments and the extra residents more land may need to be allocated to allotments. Access for the disabled should also be taken into consideration.
- h. As with the possibility of the sporting groups joining together it may be an advantage for the SPA group to join forces as well for a combined facility. This may be viewed as a more successful option.

- i. Going forward with any proposals the groups need to look at what land acreage would be needed and how this could be obtained.

5. Date of Next Meetings:

- Formal - tba
- Informal - tba

Meeting Closed at 5.20pm

- * Active Norfolk – Local Organisation working with Sport England
- * SCALGA – Swaffham Community Allotment Leisure & Gardening Association
- * SPA – Swaffham Pool Association