



“Working together for Ross-on-Wye”

ROWTOP PROGRESS GROUP (RPG)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011

7.15pm

The Larruperz Centre

**Present:** Cllr Caroline Utting (Ross Town, RPG secretary), Cllr John Edwards (Ross Town, RPG Treasurer, Ross Sports and Leisure Federation), Mel Preedy (HALC), Cllr Chris Bartrum (Ross Town, RPG), Will Frecknell, Dai Harries, Rob Brain (Chair), John Gasston (New Life Church).

**Apologies:** David Dawson (Civic Society), Cllr Jane Roberts (Ross Town, RPG), Ian Murray, Dennis Humble (EnviroAbility), Melvin Reynolds, Ali Fletcher (Age Concern), Tina Hogg and David Swinnerton.

**Welcome:** Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

**Matters arising:**

- A briefing meeting on The Town Plan for the new Town Council – It was agreed that this was no longer necessary.
- Report back from The Economic Group – none of the members of the group was at the meeting so the report was deferred to the next one which would be in September.
- Website – Ian Murray had sent his apologies and an update on progress to the Secretary. He now had full control of the site and the means to improve it. He had updated the front page and was working on a plan for the rest of the site. He requested that the Website Sub-committee meet, preferably towards the end of July. **According to my notes from the previous meeting the Matrix Sub-committee and Website Sub-committee are one and the same. Therefore there is an action on Chris Bartrum, Rob Brain, Chris Gooding, Melvyn Reynolds and Ian Murray to arrange a date for a meeting to discuss the website.**
- John Edwards reported that the Ross Sports and Leisure Federation (RS&LF) had not met since the last Progress Group meeting.
- Report back from Transport Group – Dai Harries reported that he had made a number of attempts to obtain information from Herefordshire Council concerning the original design of the one way system in Ross but had not been able to discover where, if anywhere, it was kept. Currently the HC Freedom of Information Unit was looking into locating the documents. Will Frecknell said that he had arranged to meet Andrew Lee-Jones.
- Report back from the Matrix Sub-committee – Chris showed the updated matrix to the meeting. He agreed to send it to Ian Murray so that it could be added to the website.
- Ross-on-Wifi – Chris reported that a group (Cllrs Chris Bartrum, Andrew Atkinson and Caroline Utting and Neil Mainey) had met to discuss the Wifi situation. Chris set out what had been discussed. The group had decided that if a viable way forward had not been identified by December the system would be shut down. Once a plan had been drawn up it was agreed that the group should contact Natalia Silver of Herefordshire Council.

**Empty shops:** Caroline reported that she had approached EnviroAbility to see if they would be interested in forming a team that could look after the appearance of empty shop premises on behalf of the Town council. She

hadn't heard back from them. It was agreed that Rob Brain and Will Frecknall would compile a list of empty premises in the town and send it to the Town Council with a request that something is done to improve them.

**Prioritisation of Town Plan Issues:** The sub-committees had been tasked at the last meeting to prioritise the issues within their subject group.

The RS&LF hadn't met so had been unable to do this.

The Transport Group – 1. The one-way system. 2. Safety. 3. Signage.

The Economic Group – not in attendance.

**Screen at The Phoenix:** John Edwards spoke about the new cinema facility at The Phoenix Theatre.

**Register of Town Assets:** This had been raised at meeting on Localism that Caroline Utting had attended with Cllr Ravenscroft. It had been suggested that parish councils should create a list of community assets which would allow local people to develop plans for control of buildings that had a community benefit should their future be put at risk. In villages these assets generally consisted of a shop or pub. Mel Preedy said that she understood Ledbury had asked Herefordshire Council to draw up such a list for them and that she would make enquiries. It was agreed to wait until Mel had reported back before creating a list for Ross.

**The Town Plan Implementation Sub-committee:** This had been set up by the Policy and Management Committee of Ross Town Council to draw up a business plan. Its members were Jane Roberts, Chris Bartrum, Nigel Gibbs and Caroline Utting.

**Treasurer's Report:** £2,294.07p in the account. Outgoings were £25 room hire and £36 for an ad in The Ross Gazette in support of the Screen at The Phoenix.

**Any other business:** Caroline spoke about a project being developed by EnviroAbility to create a community gardening scheme. Funding was being sort to enable a community orchard, allotments and educational facility to be built on land at Model Farm. Dennis Humble asked that The Progress Group write a letter in support of the project if it felt it fulfilled aims contained within the Town Plan. Individuals can also write in support.

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**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 7.15pm Larruperz Centre**