



"Working together for Ross-on-Wye"

ROWTOP PROGRESS GROUP (RPG)

Thursday 5th January 2012

7.15pm

The Larruperz Centre

Present: Chris Gooding, John Edwards, Caroline Utting, Chris Bartrum, Jane Roberts, Mervyn Reynolds, Dai Harries, Mary Brewin, Philip Preston, Simon Cropper, Rob brain, Will Frecknall, Dennis Humble, Andy Atkinson, Ian Murray, Sam Philips, Stephen Earl, Tina Hogg.

Apologies: James Weatherhead, John Taylor.

Localism: It was agreed that Richard Gabb (Herefordshire Officer for Housing and Ross Locality) should be invited to attend the next meeting. **Action on Caroline Utting.**

There was some discussion about the subjects that should be raised with him and Dennis Humble suggested it was important the group find out from Richard Gabb what the vehicles were for achieving identified aims.

It was agreed that members of the group should e-mail Jane Roberts with subjects they would like to discuss with Richard Gabb at the next meeting by **20th January**. Jane can be e-mailed at jane@eddecross.co.uk.

Chris Gooding recommended people read The Portas Review.

It was agreed that an invitation to attend the next meeting should be extended to all members of Ross Town Council and both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. **Action on Caroline Utting.**

Economic Development Group: Jane Roberts reported it had been agreed at the last meeting to put this sub-group on hold until the Localities Working had been established. She had carried out a comparison of the Town Plan with the LDF and also suggested coordination with local groups such as EnviroAbility as a way of developing the economic future of Ross.

Sports and Leisure: John Edwards said that he was alarmed to see Herefordshire Council was carrying out a review of Cultural Services as this was bound to mean they were looking to save money by making cuts. He suggested that the Town Plan Progress Group should keep a watchful eye on developments.

John said that he was looking into a Sports Festival for the summer. He also spoke about the installation of three outdoor concrete table tennis tables which he is working on. There was some discussion about the sites for the tables and the supply of equipment such as bats and balls.

Transport: Dai Harries gave an update of the work he and Will Frecknall have been carrying out to address a number of transport related issues in The Town Plan. He passed a copy of his report to the secretary. It was agreed that Will Frecknall would carry out a study into the feasibility of making Copse Cross St one way. **Action on Will.**

Town Services etc.: Caroline Utting gave a brief description of what had been tackled and work in progress which included a campaign by Cllr Andrew Atkinson to persuade pet owners to clean up after their dogs, The Ross Heritage Group, shop front design and the Police Liaison Committee. More details are on the website.

Website: Ian Murray reported that the new site was up and running but needed more input from group members.

Action on the sub-groups to pass information to Ian please.

Ian said that he had created a hyperlink to The Portas Review and would like feedback please.

Newsletter: John Edwards and Caroline Utting had produced a newsletter which had been published in the pages of The Ross Voice which has a circulation of 5,000 copies. The group agreed this was adequate coverage of the Ross area. Ian Murray said that the pages could also be viewed on The Monmouth Voice webpage.

Meeting with Jonathan Preece: Rob reported that he had not had a meeting with Jonathan Preece about the empty shops in Ross.

List of Assets: Caroline reported that she had had quite a good response on the Progress Group facebook page and would draw up a list from the contributions. Any other suggestions are to be sent to her.

Festival Workshop: Dennis Humble described what was being planned. It was agreed that Caroline would circulate the examples of what had been held elsewhere. Anyone who knows of a group that might be interested in taking part in a work shop on staging festivals should put them in touch with Dennis. A core group meeting would be arranged for mid-February.

Any other business: Sam mentioned that the Ross Lions had offered to pay for trees to enhance a new picnic site. He gave the dates of forthcoming Walkers Are Welcome events including the National Conference at the end of October and the Walking Festival 28th-30th September.

Dai Harries requested an update to the group's contact list. **Action on Caroline.**

Next meeting 1st March 2012