

10 December 2013

Bbest AGM minutes

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone was asked to sign in and register their interest on any of the areas of interest identified at the October meeting. Anyone who did not attend this meeting but would like to get involved in a particular area of the neighbourhood plan are encouraged to get in touch by email at information@bbest.org.uk and state your interest in any of the following topics of investigation:

- District/Retail Centre
- Mixed & Sustainable Community
- Air pollution / traffic
- Open / Green Spaces
- Conservation / Architecture

2.0 PROGRESS UPDATE:

2.1 Exeter St. James:

Peter Marsh has had the opportunity to visit one of the exemplar groups who have already completed their neighbourhood plan, Exeter St James. There are many similarities between Exeter and the BBEST area, which makes their plan specifically relevant to us.

A link to their plan is here:

<http://www.exeter.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=18581&p=0>

We encourage everyone to read through their plan to get an idea of what our final product will be and to generate additional ideas for us to pursue.

2.2 Applications for funding:

BBEST has been awarded £7,000 grant from the national funding group, Locality. This will pay for costs associated with the creation of our Neighbourhood Plan. Specifically, this will go to the cost of public meetings and events, but primarily on studies aimed at gathering evidence on housing and the environment of the area. The application for direct support, in the form of planning and neighbourhood design experts, is not available to us until we are formally recognised by the council.

2.3 Applications for formal Council Designation

We submitted two applications to the council at the beginning of November. The first was an application for designation of our Area and the second was for designation of BBEST as a Planning Forum. Both failed due to a decision by the Council's legal team regarding our membership clause, which was taken directly from an approved scheme at Exeter St. James. Laurie Platt, from the Sheffield Council's Forward Area Planning Team, was on hand to answer questions regarding this decision. The group was formally asked to revise the wording of the constitution to ensure equal membership to both those who lived and those who worked in the BBEST area.

2.4 Revisions to Constitution:

A substantial amount of debate on the wording of the revised membership clause resulted in taking the wording from another approved scheme, which allowed businesses to nominate up to two people to be members of the group and to exercise one vote.

This amendment passed with no objections. Exact wording is as below:

Clause 5: Membership

Original:

Individuals running businesses or working in the BBEST area can become Associate Members of the Forum, can attend meetings, including the AGM, can volunteer for the Forum and receive Forum mailings, but cannot vote.

Proposed Change:

Individuals running businesses or working in the BBEST area can become Members of the Forum, can attend meetings, including the AGM, can volunteer for the Forum and receive Forum mailings. Business operators must nominate up to two people in their membership application to exercise one voting right at Forum meetings.

Reason for Proposed Change:

Original version was refused by Sheffield Council legal advisors on the basis that people who work but do not live in the BBEST area were excluded from full Membership (1990 Act 61F(5)(b)(ii))

Secondly, the number of people allowed to be on the steering group by the Constitution was increased in order to create a balanced membership, more representative of the area. This revision passed with no objections. Exact wording is as below:

Clause 7: Steering Group

Original:

BBEST shall be administered by a Steering Group of no less than four (4) people and no more than nine (9), who must be at least 18 years of age.

Proposed Change:

BBEST shall be administered by a Steering Group of no less than four (4) people and no more than twelve (12), who must be at least 18 years of age.

Reason for Proposed Change:

To reflect the volume of interest from members and to provide a diverse and balanced leadership.

The meeting agreed that if further changes to the constitution were required by SCC then the officers of the group would have discretion to make appropriate modifications. Any new version of the constitution would be circulated around all members.

POST MEETING NOTE:

Revised applications for designation of BBEST as a Neighbourhood Planning Forum were submitted to the Council on 11th December, 2013. This application included the revisions to the Constitution as outlined above and approved at the AGM. The revised application was rejected again by the Council Legal team on 20/12/13. Further revisions are to be circulated to the membership. In addition, if this version is not acceptable, a meeting with the Council's legal team is planned for early January 2014 to agree on the exact wording required by Sheffield. Any further changes would be circulated to all members.

3.0 STEERING GROUP ELECTIONS:

The following people were elected to the Steering Group for the term of one year.

1. Laure Astill
2. Anne Daw
3. Bernard Donnelly
4. Alan Dilley
5. Barbara Hickman
6. Peter Marsh
7. Kath O'Donovan
8. Ian Douglas Robinson
9. Chris Topliss
10. Alan Wellings
11. Sheffield University Student Union Representative (Ally Buckle)

Additional people may be co-opted by the Steering Group as required, and the meetings are open to others who would like to attend.

First meeting is December 18th at 19:30, location TBC. Email information@bbest.org.uk if you are not on the Steering Group, but would like to be notified of the location of this meeting.

4.0 AIMS & TASK GROUPS:

Additional detail was discussed on each of the areas of interest listed in item 1 above. Task groups will be set up to gather facts relating to each of these areas of interest in support of our Neighbourhood Plan. Anyone who has a specific interest in one of these areas, should email information@bbest.org.uk.

5.0 NEXT MEETING:

Task Groups will begin meeting in January.

Next Full Membership Meeting will be in early February. Details will be emailed in January.