

Stocksbridge Community Forum
Annual General Meeting at The Venue on Wednesday 28th November 2012

Chair: Barbara Horsman 288 8394 Vice Chair: Graham Helliwell 288 2490
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– contact Bob on 288 8624

Present: Barbara Horsman, Keith Bramall, Elsie Newton, Joan Banks, Maureen Aldous, Ray Aldous, Bob Smith, Dave Pickersgill, David Hampshire, Margaret Derbyshire, Ivor Webster, Jean Long, D Rolfe, Susie Abrahams, Dawn Allen, Mark Wrigley, Sue Booker, John Ellis, Graham Helliwell, Andy Clarke, Nigel Owen, Alison Brelsford, Rebecca Hunt, Sharon Marriot, Rob Harbourne, John Kirkham

Apologies

Francis Tivey, Jim Warrender, Tracey Martin, Gill Wolff, Frank Killoway, Chris Killoway.

Minutes of 2011 AGM

It was agreed that the minutes of the last annual meeting were accurate and correct.

Financial Report – Andy Clarke

A financial statement was handed out which showed a balance of £17,115.79 but Andy explained that this included the Living Streets, Neighbourhood Plan and Fairtrade grants
The financial report was then accepted and agreed.

Chair's Report – Barbara Horsman

Barbara thanked everyone for attending and said how nice it was to see so many councillors at meetings. A rundown of the years events were then mentioned. Barbara stated that the website was currently down but that a sub-committee had been formed in order to set the new website up.
Barbara thanked Jim Warrender, who has resigned as Treasurer and Andy Clarke has offered to take this position. Thanks were also given to Andy Clarke for steering the Fairtrade Group, Joan Banks for arranging the committee meetings and Rebecca Hunt for the minutes.
There was a small grant available for Community Day which will be on 24th February 2013 .

Elections

Unfortunately, nomination forms had been forgotten so Barbara asked everyone present whether there were any nominations. There were none, therefore the Chair to remain Barbara Horsman, Vice Chair Graham Helliwell and Treasurer Andy Clarke.

Reports from Sub Groups

Living Streets – Barbara Horsman

Two years ago, 9 people attended a training day in order to learn how to organise a street audit resulting in £20k being promised from NHS to be used to promote walking. Footpath 27 (the one that runs from Lidl up to Bolsterstone) was chosen and audited for the need for dropped kerbs, rebuilding of walls, ramps etc. The money for this project had been received and a new gate had been placed. The plan was to replace all the gates as the route was to be pushchair accessible. Walls near Lidl are to be rebuilt in the spring.

Neighbourhood Planning (Design Statement) – Nigel Owen

The Design Statement group have held consultations in order to gather information about what the people want for the town and this information has been collated and drafted in a form that is acceptable to be submitted to Sheffield City Council and hopefully referred to with future planning applications. It was important for this document to be produced to say what the people do and don't want in anticipation of future developments as the people of the area value the green spaces and views around them. This had now been transferred to Stocksbridge Town Council with links to Sheffield City Council. There had been one meeting already with another one planned on 10th December. A 10 – 15 year plan needed to be put into place in which green energy etc needed to be considered. The plan needed reformatting in order to fit in with planning.

Graham Helliwell stated that it looked like all the work had been done by the community and then taken by the Town Council.

Alison Brelsford replied that it needed taking on by an authoritative body and that the Town Council were really only doing the admin.

Nigel Owen added that the work wouldn't be changed, just the format tweaked to conform.

Fairtrade Town Sub Committee – Andy Clarke

In September 2011, the Stocksbridge Community Forum resolved to form a sub group to coordinate activity to promote Fairtrade in Stocksbridge with the aim of achieving 'Fairtrade Town' status - what is likely to be a two year process.

This group quickly developed a 12 month Action and Financial Plan and has met regularly over the last 12 months to put this into effect.

Support has been gained from Stocksbridge Town Council plus over 250 local community members supporting the initiative.. There are plans to produce a Fairtrade directory of Stocksbridge in 2013 of who sells/uses Fairtrade products. A wine tasting evening had been held and there are plans to have stalls at local fayres. £1600 has been raised in 12 months through grants, sales, stalls etc.

The group are looking to involve local schools and churches soon and to apply for Fairtrade status within 2 years.

The group are pulling away from SCF as funding from various pools is only available for a group once therefore if the sub group are separated this will not impede SCF applying for funding if Fairtrade do also.

Nigel Owen asked what happened after the status is achieved.

Andy replied that the town must demonstrate that efforts are ongoing in order to retain it

Stocksbridge Community Forum Website – Bob Smith

Last year it was decided to upgrade the website to make it more interactive and introduce new features. These would include:

Local news items that people could then comment on.

An events diary that groups could use to advertise their activities.
An updated directory with more images and links to websites, Facebook and Twitter.
A small ads section
A link to our own Facebook page.

A small group - Andy Clarke, Dave Pickersgill and Bob Smith - were given the job of making it happen.

We obtained funding from the National Lottery Awards for All and employed Sheffield web designers WebArchitects to develop the new site.

Phase 1 went live in September this year and was officially launched on 5th October. We have received many positive comments about the website and a number of additional groups and businesses have applied to be included.

Phase 2 is now built and is being tested prior to including it in the live site.

A lot of hard work has gone into the development of this site and we want it to be successful but it needs the community to embrace it and use it in order for it to realise its full potential. Please use it yourself and tell others about it. The more it is used the better it will become.

Date of Next AGM

27th November 2013