

Radford Semele - Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

9th September 2016 - White Lion, Radford Semele

Present:

Cllr Brian Follet (Radford Semele Parish Council)

Emma Nelson (Radford Forge)

Olly Aries

Cllr Brian Friar (Radford Semele Parish Council)

Thanks to all who attended and contributed.

Discussion

Prior to this meeting various correspondence had been exchanged between those present and others who could not attend (Judy Steel). Initial research had been undertaken by Cllr Friar with documents circulated to all those who had registered interest prior to the meeting.

During a phone call between Sarah Brook-Taylor and Cllr Friar on 7th September, Sarah had offered some verbal advice prior to sending supportive documents that were shared with the above interested parties. Sarah raised the challenge “why do those who are asking for a neighbourhood plan, want a neighbourhood plan”, the advice was to consider the fact that to develop a neighbourhood plan would entail significant costs and require a significant commitment on all those involved.

Sarah cautioned that the purpose of a neighbourhood plan would be to promote the development in the community it was produced for, it should not be seen or considered as a method to try and block developments, but should be a proactive guide to develop communities in a positive way. To be accepted, the plan must not conflict with other local plans drawn up at higher local government tiers. The development of a plan may take considerable resource and time to produce and in most cases involve significant costs, so should not be entered into lightly.

Those plans that have been successful, in the most part have involved the use of consultants/planners engaged in a professional role and thereby incurring significant costs.

The essence of these messages were conveyed to those attending this meeting, and these were further (and more eloquently) presented by Olly Aries who has undertaken considerable research into the neighbourhood planning process and proved to be a very helpful and informed participant in this group.

Following a considerable discussion between those present, a number of key points were agreed upon:

- Key to any success of the neighbourhood plan, is the support of the Parish Council along with other representative village groups.

- Should it be agreed to proceed with the development plan, there would need to be a greater representation of the Radford Semele community.
- A wider village representation should play a part in the consultation, development and production of a neighbourhood plan for the village.
- To complete the development, a significant resource with allocated duties/tasks/responsibilities would need to be engaged to realise the plan
- Support and insight from other communities where a plan has been successfully drawn up and implemented should be obtained
- The development of a plan for Radford Semele will require the input and guidance from professionals who have experience of creating these plans
- The current Parish plan, could be used for some of the Neighbourhood plan, but the Neighbourhood plan is more encompassing all aspects of the development of Radford Semele and hence the need to engage professional expertise.
- Radford Forge has already developed a wide range of ideas for the future development of Radford Semele to improve community/environmental/sustainability aspects of the village and we should look to them to capitalise and promote these and other ideas and concepts in the plan.

Before embarking on the development of a plan, the following actions were agreed.

Actions

1. Contact to be made with Dave Barber at the District Council to gauge opinion as to viability and timing against the imminent application of the District's Local Plan – culminating in a meeting with Dave Barber and this group. – **ACTION Olly Aries.**
2. Request that the Parish Council submits a Registration of Interest in developing a Neighbourhood Plan with the District Council, to be raised at the next Parish Council Meeting on 26th September – **ACTION Cllr Brian Friar**
3. Contact to be made with other groups who have undertaken the development of Neighbourhood plans to gain some insight as to how their processes went as well and an idea of costs and logistics – **ACTION Cllr Brian Friar and Olly Aries.**
4. Investigation in to the sources and availability of Grants to support the development of a Neighbourhood Plan – **ACTION Cllr Brian Friar**
5. Contact with others known in Radford Semele who have expressed an interest in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan – **ACTION All**
6. Arrange a further discussion with Sarah Brook-Taylor and the group if possible to understand more about the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and what resources and commitment is needed (this is before there would be a need to commit any form of expenditure to progress). Will look to see if as many members of this group can also attend. – **ACTION Cllr Brian Friar**

Further progress would be dependent on the feedback from Dave Barbour (Action Point 1 above). A provisional date of 14th October was agreed for this group's next meeting to follow up on the outcomes of the above actions.