

Minutes
of the meeting of the
Learning and Leisure Action Group
16 March 2005
Held at The Windmill, Hutton

Meeting Commenced: 7:30 . Meeting Concluded:9:45

Present: Katie Isgrove (Chairman)
Emma Hanse
Mike Sanders
Les Masters

1 Apologies for absence

Jo Gower-Crane (Vice-chairman)
Glenys Masters

2 Approval of minutes (15 February 2005)

The minutes were approved

3 Progress reports on research

We discussed each of the areas that we had investigated and agreed possible questions to be input into the village questionnaire (see document attached). The following points were noted:

Footpaths and bridleways: Les had prepared a note (dated 1/3/05) on footpaths (copy attached). We agreed that we are very fortunate to have the number of footpaths that we do and that, although there are a few minor areas that could be improved, the footpaths are in general in very good condition. We discussed the availability of information regarding footpaths - there is a map of paths in the village shop that is updated annually and provided in the welcome pack to newcomers to the village. We thought that this was adequate. We discussed the possibility of group walks – apparently the environment group recently did a guided walk that was very successful.

We discussed the cycle path along the A370 from Uphill. This is intended to go to Brean but Sedgemoor have not done their bit. Nevertheless, the stretch from Uphill is still well used.

Village activities and social events: Katie asked whether it would be possible to get a list of activities/events that are held in the hall - this information is available in the quarterly village paper which can be picked up from the village shop.

Recreation provision for our youth: Emma has spoken to someone at North Somerset Council who are keen to ensure that the youth club is used to its maximum capacity (Puxton and Hewish are the only other small villages in North Somerset with such a facility). Apparently, there is funding available to do any necessary investigations and support workers in the future. It has been suggested that we hold a consultation evening to get peoples views. They are particularly keen to introduce a younger age group – the current workers are only qualified to look after 11-25 year olds. We discussed the fact that most current youth club members are from outside of Bleadon and discussed possible ways of encouraging village children to go along. Emma is going to attend the next steering group meeting (on 22 April in place of Katie) and will raise this active consultation paper.

We discussed the other youth activities currently offered in the village. These are Brownies, Toddler group and Sunday Club. Brownies and Sunday club can't get any bigger as membership is already at its maximum given the number of helpers. This is apparently a recurring problem as other groups eg cubs have had stop due to a lack of volunteers.

After-school and holiday activities: Emma has spoken to Tracey Wells, the co-ordinator for North Somerset. Again there is funding available – this could be for either an after school group or a holiday workshop. However, this is terribly complex – Uphill had a holiday club but closed due to lack of interest – it also requires a link with a school and given that Bleadon children go to a variety of schools this would be extremely difficult. It was noted that Hutton Moor have a holiday club but that this doesn't start until 10am so still doesn't really help working parents!

The mobile library: North Somerset are about to do a survey of the whole district – they are keen to get our input. There are currently 5 stops, starting at 11 am on alternate Mondays. North Somerset can provide figures about how much each site used. However, we concluded that this may not indicate the favourite site as people often drive to the next stop if they have missed their usual one.

Sport and games provisions: Mike handed around a survey from The Daily Telegraph published in January 2005 that showed sporting habits in the UK. He also passed around a paper that he had prepared that shows what sporting facilities are provided in Bleadon and the surrounding villages (copy attached). A key message is that there are currently no sports facilities in Bleadon, apart from skittles at the Queens Arms. Mike explained that he owns the land alongside Bridge Road and would we happy to offer this land for community use, if this was in conjunction with a housing development in the adjoining field. He passed around a possible Plan that is very similar to the layout at Lympsham.

Pre-school activities and support, school provision and access and access to further education: In Jo's absence we discussed her note (copy attached)

School transport: Currently free transport is provided to Uphill but nowhere else. In particular, there are 14 people that go to Hutton who could benefit from school transport.

We also discussed the fact that Bleadon has won a free PC with one year of free internet access – this is proposed to be put in the new Post Office.

Access to and appreciation of the River Axe: It was decided that the River Axe is not very well-suited to water sports eg high river banks make canoeing “boring” and is too flat for many activities. There are currently a couple of walks along the River Axe – this was thought adequate. There is already a fishing club nearby.

Work experience in our community: we will ask the Economy and Prosperity Action Group for a list of local businesses but thought that apart from making this available we shouldn't have to do much more – part of the work experience thing is actually being brave and bold enough to go and ask people yourself if they will take you on for work experience.

Community learning: Currently only one class is offered (painting). From the North Somerset website; Community learning is co-financed by the European Social Fund and the Learning Skills Council. There exists an initiative – a project was run for 2 years ending December 2004 where courses were free if someone was aged over 19 and had not been in college or university education in the last three years. Susan McAllen is the CLDP Co-ordinator. Katie will contact her if there is sufficient interest from the village questionnaire.

Access to the internet: The new computer has been put in the village shop. Katie handed around an article regarding Wedmore's “IT for the terrified” – this has been a very successful initiative, acting to improve IT skills and provide a meeting place. Given the fact that most households now have access to a computer, we thought we should wait to see the success of the village shop computer.

9 Date of next meeting

Monday 23 May, 7.30, Hawksmoor, Bleadon