

## Highworth Community Meeting 26 July 2006

Present: Joanne Cook  
Nikki Coyne  
Helie Franklin  
Martin Miles  
Paul Newton-Smith  
Clare Penny  
Maureen Penny  
Sandra Rendall  
Sam Rushton  
Keith Smith  
Carly Stevenson  
Ian Young

Apologies: Shirley  
Church  
Alfie Howe  
Shaun Vokins

Meeting opened with Helie giving an overview of what we were trying to achieve, which is a community plan. This plan, completed by the people of Highworth, should include shared projects. We would be aided in putting this plan together and there was a resource book for guidance.

The community plan should be smart, it should be used to identify issues for the Borough Council and should be used as a working document to support the community and perhaps HighworthTown Council(HTC). Sam asked why the council were not doing this? Keith and Maureen advised that this was not the councils work, they did not have a 'corporate plan' for Highworth and it was not their responsibility. The Plan and the Group will be able to guide HTC in their attempts to 'revive' Highworth.

Paul asked how the team got round problems with other councils. Helie advised that there would be a need to involve other groups – Age Concern, Wiltshire Youth etc. There are over 22 Groups including Swindon and most work with the town council. Maureen advised that she was a Highworth Councillor and she could act as the go-between.

Ian advised that apathy could make this fail and would like to kick start this initiative with a win-win idea to show that the plan is to deliver not just to talk about it. Nicky advised that the fund was available to build the plan not to deliver projects. Ian felt that we could do both at the same time as traders were willing to help out.

The meeting then moved on to what information would be needed for the community plan

- What does Highworth want to be – is it a Market town or ????????
- What issues are stopping Highworth moving forward?
- What do we need to get there?

It's a dream about what Highworth is going to be in the future and a plan of activities of how to get it there.

First steps in achieving this is:

- Terms of reference for the group need to be drawn up by the next meeting
- There is a reference book to help us to move forward
- Interests/suggestions already shown by the community in the first meeting must be rationalised.

- The committee then introduced themselves to one another giving a brief resume of their experience.

Actions:

- Meetings to be held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.00 in the library (starting September. – Maureen to Organise
- Terms of references of other communities to be sent By Helie to Maureen – **Action Helie**
- Maureen who will distribute them to the Steering Group – **Action Maureen**
- The Steering Committee should formulate an outline for the meeting in September – **Action All**
- We need a name (title) can anyone think of anything???? – **Action All**
- Maureen will send the three lists of what people like/don't like/would like to change to Keith who will rationalise them for the next meeting – **Action Maureen/Keith**