

SAVE HATHERLEIGH MARKET TOWN

MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2012 7.30PM VINE CHURCH

PRESENT: N Price, Chair, R Entwistle, M Taylor, R Laycock, P Farris, C Squire, C Dorain

Apologies: H Reddaway

NP opened the meeting by thanking the 50 plus members of the public for attending . Thanks was also given to Map Marketing Ltd, Hatherleigh for supplying copies and lamination of proposed market plans.

Correspondence from local councillors and MPs was displayed.

NP stated that planning application was likely to go forward in Spring (March onwards)

Angela O'Brien asked for confirmation that the MP for the Hatherleigh area was Mel Stride, this was confirmed.

NP stated that the objectives of the Save Hatherleigh Market Town group was as per December 7 2011 minutes. A central auction hall, multi-use, size to take into consideration the needs of Hatherleigh Carnival etc. Undercover area for 100 market stalls. Undercover area owned by Hatherleigh Town Council. Fur and Feather Hall. Free car parking for 650 cars, area to have alternative use when not being used as a car park.

NP stated that the 1990 Conservation Area Act will apply to the market development. Stating that any development must be sensitive to surrounding areas.

NP stated that the owners of the market are Hatherleigh Market plc and that no personal degradation has and never would be accepted by this group.

Regarding the Localisation Bill NP read from a letter sent by Mel Stride.

The consequences of this bill were explained by P Farris and and NP.

Jake Skelton enquired about the effect to the environment of the proposed market plans.

Claire Tyson (Plan-It) stated that an environmental assessment would be required .

P Farris explained to Roy Barratt that the planning stage was 'outline' at the moment.

Mike Payne asked if the Livestock Market in Hatherleigh could be retained and if viable.

Sonia Lindsay stated that a livestock market in Hatherleigh would be viable.

It was asked if the group could contact A Varney and other market staff re possible ownership.

NP to action the above.

P Farris stated that he thought that there was no prospective purchaser of the Livestock Market at the moment. He stated that the Livestock Market was a non-starter, a Tuesday style market could continue but not with the present owners.

Andrew Cox, Meeth, enquired as to whether there were any interested buyers for the site and if so who were they.

C Dorain asked if there could be a condition on the planning that only half of the market site be developed. P Farris replied no as the site is privately owned.

R Laycock suggested the group produce a structured plan to bring employment into Hatherleigh.

Sugegstions were Education Centre, Visitors Centre etc as this would also minimise the number of houses built. Rachel gave as an example the impact on Okehampton and Holsworthy of over

development. NP stated that the relevant skills would need to be located in the community also the finance.

P Farris reinforced that when planning goes forward in Spring that is when residents must write to councillors, MPs etc to object.

It was asked if a Community Interest Company could be set up.

A O'Brien said she concerned that the buyers of the market site would not uphold the requirements of the community as a whole.

Mr Holmes, farmer, stated that Hatherleigh Market was excellent, much better than other local markets and enquired why the present owners would not sell to a company such as Kivells.

It was proposed that a community plan need to be started immediately.

C Squire spoke regarding the present plans, stating how little thought had gone into the planning especially regarding the number of cars that are at the market every week.

T Connor stated that the planners were not aware of the dimensions of the road that passes in front of the George Hotel as this on the plans was a through road to the new site.

P Wonnacott said that Hatherleigh would be spoiled and that residents needed to state this in letters to MPs etc and give Okehampton and Holsworthy as examples of over development.

NP to speak to the owners of Hatherleigh Market at a suitable time.

C Hall, WDBC Councillor has spoken to the owners of the market.

Mike Payne stated that Hatherleigh cannot sustain the suggested 140 new homes.

Jane Payne suggested that a garden centre and a food smoke house could be sited on the area.

S Lindsay pointed out that the development plan had some workshops but not sufficient.

R Laycock suggested a youth hostel or bunk house for cyclists could be sited on the area.

A Cox said that when the next sets of plans were ready that Hatherleigh Market plc be invited by the community to discuss the plans to promote dialogue between the two parties.

Mr Holmes was concerned regarding the environment. C Tyson stated that 'Plan-It' would oversee this.

P Embling asked the group what was the next step.

NP suggested planning alternatives be produced.

P Farris and R Barratt discussed individual letter writing regarding the next set of plans (Spring).

NP stated the Town and Country Planning Act could prove useful.

It was suggested that a flyer be inserted in the next months Parish Pump to encourage people to write letters to MPs etc.

P Embling said that he thought the way to go was to firstly complete Plan-It questionnaires, write objection letters and lastly produce alternative plans for the area.

NP asked if anyone at the meeting was in favour of 140 houses being built, on the site. There was no response.

Suggestions for businesses on the market site as follows:

Micro-Brewery, visitors centre, cycle shop, garden centre, youth hostel, photographic centre, Hatherleigh museum, livestock market, camp site, 'War Horse' exhibition. Other suggestions were car parking, allotments and swimming pool.

Any other suggestions can be sent to NP via email or handed into Hatherleigh Post Office.

Donations on the night for Save Hatherleigh Market Town expenses totalled £42, thanks to all who gave.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

