

Notes from the NDP 'Warm-up' session held on Tuesday 1st September with members of the Weobley Village Hall Committee including representatives of village organisations

Present: Lyn Bruce (VHC Chair), Lorraine Anderson (VHC Secretary), Dave Hackley (Caretaker), Per Milde (Treasurer), Charlotte Graydon (rep. Brownies & Guides), Michal Peyman (rep. Parish Church and Churches Together), Terry Voyle (rep. Hfd Nature Trust), Anne Cole (rep. Gardening Soc.), Diane Rice (rep. Bowling Club), Elizabeth Holley (rep. Village Lunch Club) Dr Vicky Mackie (Elected member) and one guest.

Prior to the start of their bi-monthly meeting, the Committee received a presentation by Lyn Bruce on behalf of the NDP Steering Group, which explained the NDP process and the need for community consultation. She asked village organisation representatives in particular to take this information back to their committees for their views and reminded them that consultation would be ongoing throughout the process.

Four questions had been prepared to promote discussion, ideas and suggestions and to which Committee members responded:

Q1. How can economic growth and employment needs best be fostered in the parish over the next 15 years?

and

Q2. How can we best support local businesses and services that contribute to the life of residents and visitors of all ages, including support for new diversification and the use of new technologies?

- Need for better broadband. Consider offering free wifi access at V Hall
- Keep up with future technologies
- The village is currently well served by shops and businesses
- The continued presence of the Post Office is very important. It offers other much needed facilities, e.g. access to banking and collection of pensions and is particularly important for residents without their own transport.
- Encourage and support tourism

Q3. How can we reduce the environmental impact of road traffic, and lessen the need for car use by encouraging alternative modes of transport?

- The village has a good bus service at the moment, this should be protected and possibly increased as some services are overcrowded.
- Could consider a community mini-bus or car share service
- Parking is a general problem in the village –
 - Consider increasing car park areas
 - Consider a coach park to avoid these parking in the village centre streets. Coach passengers could be dropped off in centre and coaches parked elsewhere.
 - Consider introducing parking time restrictions (but would require policing)
 - Increase parking signage to encourage use of existing car parks
- Speeding is a problem in the village -
 - Traffic calming measures could be investigated - no support for 'sleeping policeman', Could consider 'village gating' at village entrances.
 - Reduce the speed limit
 - Introduce one way system in village centre
 - Need to address concerns over speed of farm vehicles through the village

Q4. What needs to be considered when considering new developments in terms of appropriate infrastructure, services and facilities?

- Need to address concerns over the overloading of the existing sewerage system by any new developments.
- Expansion of the village surgeries needed. Access to the dentists' is also limited as NHS lists are full and patients leaving the area do not need to be de-registered. (The committee were reminded that both the doctors' and dentists' would be consulted as part of the NDP process.)
- Consider bringing mains gas to the village – previously not supported due to cost to residents.

Committee members were reminded of the P4R event on the 12th, 13th and 14th September and that further comments could also be left on the NDP website: weobleyndp.weebly.com

Lyn thanked the committee for their contributions.