

Neighbourhood Plan Town Centre and Heritage Group

Wednesday 11 Feb 2015

Present: Steve Foster (Chair), Nino Mancini, Jackie MacArthur.

Guests: Brian Hogan (Steering Group), David McGifford CEC,

Apologies – Mike Warke, Glyn Roberts

A few questions raised over level of detail expected of the group. Advice from David and Brian was that we need to give a special vision of what the neighbourhood wants for the area. Steve to speak with Andrew and Glyn over direction.

Q. Concern expressed over all the variables – do we assume the planning application from Scarborough will happen or not. A. Need to assume that something will happen in the area by 2030. Should have plan A for if the Bridestones Plan happens how to integrate it. Plan B if it doesn't happen how would the community want that space used.

Similarly assume that the area around the Borough Council offices, Police Station and Fairground Car Park will undergo some sort of development – what's the town's vision/needs.

Think about iconic buildings like Bosson's Mills – what would the group want that to look like by 2030.

Steve thanked Nino and Mike for the work they have carried out and asked that we all read their paper, along with the notes submitted by Glyn.

Started thinking about the types of questions we would want to include on the questionnaire. Advised these could be closed questions with a scale of agreement – strongly agree to strongly disagree. Came up with ideas around How much do you agree with the following statements

1. Heritage and conservation should play a key role in the regeneration and vibrancy of Congleton's future?
2. Congleton Town Centre development should include enhanced retail, leisure and night-time economy opportunities?
3. Public open spaces within the Town Centre should be protected and enhanced and the public realm improved
4. Shop frontage and directional signage should be in keeping with and enhance the character of the town
5. Congleton needs to remain an attractive market town with adequate public space for markets and other events
6. *There should be enough car parking spaces to recognise the growing catchment size of Congleton and pricing policies should not be a barrier to people using the Town Centre.*

Note – number 6 wasn't discussed – I just made that one up as a suggestion!

A date for the next meeting wasn't set. Steve to advise once spoken with Andrew and Glyn.