



Vision Group for Sidmouth

for the sustainable development of town and valley

Present: Dave Alexander, Jenny Alexander, Dave Bramley, Graham Cooper, Diana East, Graham Elsom, Kerry Gibbons, Rita Hedley, Graham Hutchinson, Jean Twibell, Jeremy Woodward

Apologies: Jon Ball, Liz Bramley, Miriam Brown, Robert Crick, Jill Gray, Bob Miles, John Twibell, Louise Woolley

Minutes - VGS Coordination Meeting and Annual General Meeting 21 June 2017, 7pm at Leigh Browne Room

1. Vision Group Future - discuss

- . we discussed the many successes the VGS has had in incubating and creating projects in the Valley such as the SVEAG, ScienceFestival, Futures Forum, Farmers Market etc.
- . we also noted that the Neighbourhood Plan (the general idea of which featured prominently in the original VGS founding brief in 2005) will likely generate new actions and projects. This is likely to come to fruition in mid 2018. This might be a reason to keep VGS alive until then.
- . the favoured option as regards the VGS future seemed to be the VGS 'light' as outlined in DB's paper
- . the website may need to be reorganised due to financial reasons and also due to upcoming upgrades to the system but this may not be urgent Action: **Jeremy** and **Rita** to work out what would be a good alternative.
- . Rita has extended the current hosting until 2018 so this issue will not arise until Jun 2018.

Decisions:

- . we will continue with the VGS in the 'light' mode for another year
- . the current officers will definitely stand down in 2018
- . we will publicise VGS in the local media (eg. portraits of Kerry/ Farmers Market/ Food Festival and other VGS successes) later in the year (with build-up towards the end of the year). Action:
- . amendment to the Constitution that we meet at least once a year (instead of the current more frequent timetable) was unanimously approved

Actions:

- **Diana East** to circulate suggestions for publicity and, depending on the feedback, Diana will contact the Herald with a view to featuring various individuals who have contributed to VGS successes over the years
- We will ask for 'your ideas for projects to take forward'
- About new membership - we will ask **Graham Cooper** to raise the issue of timing and Neighbourhood Plan generated actions with Deirdre (project manager of the Neighbourhood Plan group)
- DB agreed with Liz that unless something newsworthy emerges there will two per year, one prior to Christmas and one prior to AGM.

2. Farmers Market

Kerry G wishes to give up managing the monthly Farmers market for personal reasons. We owe Kerry our warmest thanks for her 7 years of work in running the market, which has been really successful, and wish her well for the future.

Kerry outlined what is involved in running the market, which is now much simplified at Kennaway compared to how it was while it was held at the St John Hall. The market is profitable for the stall holders as well as us and the stall holders are interested in continuing. We discussed the various details relating to the running and the existence of the market.

We agreed to ask for volunteer/s to run the market from among the stallholders and also the members of the Vision Group. Kerry agreed to send out an email to ask for volunteers in the first instance.

One consideration is that if someone from outside the VGS takes it on, the sustainability/ locality principles might not be guaranteed to continue.

Action: **Kerry** to sound out both the stall holders and the VGS members. **Rita** to update the market dates on the website re. the market once the outcome is known.

3. Officers

We elected the following officers, all of whom are continuing the roles they have held before -
Chair - Dave Bramley
Secretary - Rita Hedley
Treasurer - Jean Twibell
Publicity - Liz Bramley
Farmers' Market - Kerry Gibbons

4. Port Royal Update

There is a survey and a consultation at Kennaway House re. the future of Port Royal which would be worth attending on Monday 26 June and Tuesday 27 June.

We are particularly interested in - and would ask for maximum transparency of - the process of how the various strands of community input have been integrated in to the scoping study.

5. AOB

. Treasurer's report: we have about £2000 - £2500 uncommitted funds in the bank at the moment.

6. Next steps

- . Actions as above to be followed up. (Please let the distribution list know.)
- . Next meeting at a date to be decided in June 2018 unless members request a special meeting before that.
- . Attached please find the amended constitution.