**ENVIRONMENT SUB-GROUP**

Meeting 3

5 May 2015

Present: Kathryn Bell, Sue Prochak, MartinBates, Edward Flint , Cherry Mitchell, Stephen Hardy, Peter Davies

Apologies: Amanda McIntyre, Alex Hammond.

1. I briefed on Amanda’s draft objectives and on what I had done about flooding. I now have the name of a contact at the environment agency and a copy of the disc supplied by Rother with flood details. Alex had given his apologies and Edward had to attend another meeting early and so we covered actions arising from previous meetings.

2. a) **25 March**

a) we need to start work now on mapping the current situation, liaising with appropriate outside bodies (eg environment agency for Peter) and with other NP sub-groups as required (work stream leads). **ONGOING**

b) Circulate links to other NPs to stimulate thought (Peter) **DONE**

c) Circulate parish map (Peter) **DONE**

d) find out how we can set up a secure shared folder for our work (Peter) **Steering group is having a website designed on which documents will be stored/shared.**

b) **7 APRIL**

a) Sue to i) identify and contact existing owners of mill site and ii) speak to Planners re feasibility study **Sue briefed that she has done this and contacted one of the potential purchasers of the site but situation is fluid. She has contacted Environment Agency (EA) about feasibility study but prerequisite is site owners’ agreement. ACTION: Sue will contact EA to see if they are prepared to visit even while future ownership of site is unclear.**

b) Alex will identify companies who might carry out such a study **ONGOING**

c) Stephen will identify a Point of Contact (POC) in the Rye Environment group for Peter to contact ONGOING

d) Alex will contact the Community College about a possible web-site project. **Alex did so and got a positive reply but Steering Group (SG) is going with a professional designer.**

3. We discussed the questionnaire. Edward was keen that the environment group cover all aspects of the problem, including the treatment of run-off water. Without proper water management we risked causing real problems. I agreed and said I would amalgamate Amanda’s objectives with some I had drafted for consideration by the group to cover this issue.

4. In a wide-ranging discussion we touched on footpaths and bridleways (raised as an issue in an SG discussion). Edward said there was an extensive network of footpaths but many were not well-known – which could help protect the environment. Easier access could lead to littering for example. Martin offered to record and circulate a list of topics which we would aim to flesh out into questionnaire questions for the SG on 12 May.

5. Edward asked whether we should include a question on the importance of maintaining the separate identity of the 3 village settlements in the Parish. This was thought to be a politically sensitive question and one perhaps better avoided.

6. Edward was concerned we were too focused on houses and were ignoring possible commercial/industrial development’s impact on the environment. The group agreed and Peter agreed to amend the wording in the draft objectives accordingly.

7. DONM is Weds 3 June at Peans Farmhouse.

8. **ACTIONS AGREED**

a) Peter to circulate draft objectives for all to comment/amend

b) Martin to circulate questions topics for theme leaders to comment/amend

c) Sue to contact EA about a visit even while ownership of mill site is up in the air

d) Peter to circulate reminder several days in advance of the meeting.