

Neighbourhood Forum Annual General Meeting
28th. September, 2016, Teversal Manor Room, 7pm.
Report by Chair

The past year has seen the Neighbourhood Plan brought to the draft stage and put out for its final 6 week consultation as required by the Regulations. Once the consultation is complete on the 28th. October responses will be assimilated and the Plan amended if necessary. A further meeting of the Forum will then take place to finally sign off the Plan before it goes to independent assessment and ultimately the referendum. It is suggested that that meeting be held on Wednesday 30th. November to give time for the consultation responses to be assimilated and any changes to the Plan to be made.

There has been far more interest in the Plan during this consultation and 800 questionnaires have so far been distributed as well as the response online which is yet to be assessed.

During the year a further grant of £7,800 was made by Locality which should be sufficient to see us to the end of the project.

With the work on the Plan coming to an end there is the opportunity to re-focus the Forum so that it becomes the voice of the people of Skegby, Stanton Hill and Teversal. The following are a few issues that the Forum could tackle, issues that concern us all:

- The Forum can apply to ADC to become a statutory consultee on future planning and development issues on the same basis as a parish council so that residents can have a say in what happens around them.
- The Neighbourhood Plan requires developers to consult with the Forum before submitting applications for major developments. This offers us the opportunity to influence where new housing will go and what the development will look like. It will also offer the opportunity to negotiate “planning gain” so that developers contribute towards new infrastructure such as school buildings and surgeries.
- Traffic, roads and public transport were issues raised time and again by residents. The Forum can work with Notts. C.C. Highways and bus companies to look at ways to improve the safety of road users and pedestrians and improve bus services.
- The Regeneration of Stanton Hill is important to us all wherever we live in the area. Large amounts of money are currently available for places such as Stanton Hill and could be accessed by a dedicated team working with the Council’s Regeneration Team.
- I understand that there are plans to close Sutton Police Station. Surely none of us want this to happen? The Forum could take this up with the Police on behalf of residents and businesses.

Going forward there won't be the complicated and sustained effort that's been required over the past 2 years working on the Neighbourhood Plan, nor any deadlines to be met. The commitment by members of the Forum can be as much or as little as they are able to offer so I would urge you to participate.

I will be standing down as Chair so the following posts need to be filled on the 28th. September for the Forum to continue - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. This is an opportunity to make a difference to the place you live in and prevent unwelcome development. We now have a vehicle that can speak for the people of the area as would a Parish Council and the opportunities this presents need to be grasped.