

**LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH PLAN ACTION GROUP MEETING HELD AT
LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2010**

Present: *Parish Councillors Atkinson, Mrs Galvin (PPAG Chairman), Hamilton (Chairman of L&LPC and Chairman of Littleham Village Hall & Rifle Field Charity) and Mrs P Haddrell, Mrs S Rees, Mrs R Stevens and Mrs V Wisenfeld.*

Apologies: *Mr J Bromhead, Mrs S Percy, Mrs J Poole, Mrs L Shakespeare and Parish Councillors Mrs Beer, Ms Lamb, Poole and Stevens.*

1. Mr John Bromhead:

Correspondence was received from Mr John Bromhead. It is over three and a half years ago since he left Littleham and he wishes to retire and let younger Littleham residents participate in P.P.A.G. matters. The meeting accepted Mr Bromhead's letter and noted his much appreciated service to Littleham and Landcross over many years.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Bromhead to thank him for his outstanding work in establishing the Parish Plan Action Group and for achieving so much in the community.

2. Matters arising from meeting of 12 January 2009: There were no matters arising.

3. Review of Action Plan Items:

(a) ENVIRONMENT:

(1.2) Biodiversity Group and Biosphere:

Cllr Mrs Galvin reported on Biodiversity Group work during 2009, highlighting work on a Code of Conduct, Definition of Aims, preparation for a Tree map, suggested Littleham Playing-Field projects, identification of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam and North Devon Biosphere Reserve initiatives. **The Biodiversity Group's will meet again in March.** No matters were referred to the Parish Council.

TDC: N Devon & Torridge Core Strategy Public Consultation: February 2010:

Cllr Mrs Galvin reported her attendance at a Public Consultation Event, held to explain the Draft Core Strategy Development Plan Document that is to be published in March, after public consultation. A copy of the Draft Core Strategy Development Plan Document has been made available to Parish Councillors and L&LPC have already submitted around 40 comments during earlier preparation processes.

The document, the related Sustainability Appraisal and other supporting documents can be viewed on websites: www.northdevon.gov.uk/corestrategy and www.torridge.gov.uk/ldf. The District Councils are encouraging respondents to make comments on-line to ldf@northdevon.gov.uk or ldf@torridge.gov.uk. Comments should arrive **before 5pm on 4th March 2010.**

Details of the consultation process and a schedule of consultation events can be seen on the Public Notice Boards in Littleham and Landcross.

Cllr Mrs Galvin is concerned about proposals for considerable future housing development on highly visible agricultural land between Atlantic Village and the A39. She thinks this will spoil the traditional Devon character of Bideford and rural villages nearby. She also reported that no significant changes are envisaged in Littleham or Landcross. The Clerk had also attended a consultation event and had asked whether expected national reductions in public expenditure would require the Core Strategy to be scaled back. He reported that officials intend that, as housing development occurs, other public service infrastructure will be developed to keep pace with population changes and that the Core Strategy envisages the cost of future public infrastructure being mainly funded by developers.

Cllr Atkinson expressed concern over the increasing average age of Littleham residents and thought there was a need for younger people to be encouraged to live in the village, if only to respond to the increased demand for support services inevitably required as the local population ages.

RECOMMENDED, that those present to make good use of the Public Consultation Period before the 4th March 2010.

(b) TRANSPORT AND ROADS:

(2.1) Speed of traffic :

Cllr Mrs Galvin reported on her correspondence with DCC and Dept of Transport, regarding the introduction of 20mph speed limits in Littleham. The Parish Council has also corresponded with DCC and Dept of Transport on this matter during 2009, but DCC advises that Littleham is unlikely to gain 20 mph limits in the foreseeable future, because the narrow rural roads already constrain traffic.

Mrs Wisenfeld reported injury to animals and damage to property caused by speeding vehicles (including large tractors) on the road between Orleigh Cross, Langdons and Littleham Village. She advised that the Police had been notified. The meeting noted that Yarnscombe is similar to Littleham and Yarnscombe has had 20mph limits for some time. The meeting also noted that more and more drivers with “sat-navs” are being influenced to use the rural road “rat-runs” in the Parish, especially between Moorhead Cross and Hoopers Water. The Police have been notified and commercial vehicle owners have been spoken to, but little has changed.

RESOLVED, that the Parish Council are requested to raise these matters with DCC and the Police once more and to consider whether to invite a DCC / Police speaker to attend the Annual Meeting again.

(2.6) Welcome Pack for New Residents:

A Welcome Booklet Working Party of volunteers had produced booklets and volunteers had distributed them to some local homes, but distribution needs to be improved and the booklet needs to be updated and included as part of the Community Website.

Cllr Mrs Galvin and Mrs Haddrell agreed to meet Cllr Poole (Project Leader) to discuss improvements to the booklet and future distribution strategies.

(c) COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Self-Help-Emergency-Plans (SHEPs):

The meeting discussed difficulties experienced during the recent snowfall and Cllr Mrs Galvin recommended that local residents should become more aware of the Littleham Self Help Emergency Plan and the Landcross Self Help Emergency Plan. Cllr Hamilton (Co-ordinator of Littleham SHEP) advised that the village had generally coped without activating the Plan. Existing local arrangements had resulted in DCC promptly gritting difficult parts of Littleham. Mrs Haddrell and Mrs Stevens called for additional gritting boxes in the Apps area of Littleham. The meeting also thought that the names of the SHEP Co-ordinators and Assistant Co-ordinators should be published in Crosslet and on the Community Website

RECOMMENDED, that these issues are referred to the Parish Council.

(3.7) Littleham Neighbourhood Watch:

The Meeting noted that, despite Cllr Poole’s efforts, Littleham Neighbourhood Watch has yet to be revived. When the Parish Plan Survey was carried out, 70% of the 31% who responded indicated that they would support a Neighbourhood Watch (i.e. 46 households).

RECOMMENDED, that this matter is referred to the Parish Council.

(d) HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT: Housing Needs Survey Draft Report:

Cllr Mrs Galvin reported that the Draft Survey reveals that only one additional affordable dwelling is required by Littleham and Landcross residents and that the Draft Survey points to this dwelling being part of expected new building in Alwington. The Meeting again noted Cllr Atkinson’s comments about the increasing age of Littleham residents and the need for younger local residents.

(e) COMMUNICATION:

(5.2) Community Website:

Mrs Haddrell reported on the Website Association’s work during 2009. A 5th generation Website is now used. This is more user-friendly. There is a need to encourage local children and neighbouring schools to participate in Community Website activities. The Bird-Cam has been very successful and Mr David Hogan has made improvements to several facilities available via the Community Website. Mrs Haddrell advised that a second web-cam site is envisaged and that there is merit in encouraging newcomers to use the website to become aware of what is happening in the two villages. The influence of the L&LCWA has resulted in computer classes at the Village Hall.

The Meeting recorded a vote of thanks to Mr Hogan for his development work and administration leadership and to Mrs Haddrell and her committee for increasing the scope L&LCWA during 2009.

(f) LEISURE ACTIVITIES:

The Meeting noted the success of the Film Society, The Arts & Music Festival, the Art Group, the Tapissers and increased use of Littleham Village Hall for a wide range of activities. Cllr Hamilton advised that The Hall is being used far more and income from Hire of Rooms has increased substantially. This originates from the increased involvement of local people after they became aware of community needs and

community opportunities whilst the Parish Plan was being prepared. No matters were referred to the Parish Council.

4. Neville Jackson:

The Meeting noted that Mr Jackson is retiring as Clerk to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council and that this is likely to be his last Parish Plan Action Group Meeting.

RESOLVED, that Mr Jackson is thanked for his work in establishing and supporting the Parish Plan.

5. Next Parish Plan Action Group Meeting: **January 2011 (date yet to be determined).**

The Meeting commenced 7.30pm and ended at 8.50 pm.