

# **Boston Spa Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Group (NPAG) Meeting**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm  
held in  
Lantern Room, Boston Spa Village Hall, 199 High Street, Boston Spa, LS23 6AA

**Present:** Cllr G Bowen, Cllr K Blake, D Faraday, K Jackson, R Harrison

**Apologies:** Cllr P Stables

**Guests:** None

**In Attendance:** Tomas Johnson and Paige Carpenter (Leeds City Council), Deborah Marshall (Clerk to Boston Spa Parish Council).

## **MINUTES**

1.	<b>Apologies for absence</b>
	Apologies had been received from Cllr P Stables. It was noted that Vivienne Skinner had passed away since the last meeting and a minute's silence was held in her memory.
	<b>Resolved: That the apologies be accepted</b>
2.	<b>To confirm the minutes from the May meeting and note any actions delivered</b>
	The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.
	<b>Resolved: That the minutes be approved.</b>
3.	<b>Part 2 of the planning activity led by T Johnson of LCC Planning</b>
	<p>T Johnson distributed 3 topic cards with the following questions: Is Boston Spa a cosy village?</p> <p>The group agreed that facilities in the village are spaced out over a long distance from east to west. Deepdale Community Centre feels like it is a satellite facility and needs investment to make it attractive to more groups and activities. The skate park is now becoming tired and dated and would benefit from investment and refurbishment. Boston Spa is lucky in that it is one of the few places left with public toilets. It was discussed whether picnic tables should be put at the riverside. The riverside needs better disabled access. Participants discussed wheelchair hire. It was agreed the riverside would be a good area to install a sensory area and nature activities for children. It was agreed a village map at the Church Fields Car Park and Millennium Gardens would be useful a community noticeboard would assist in promoting village activities. The village would benefit from having a Village website, where businesses and organisations could post information.</p>

	<p>Is Boston Spa a vibrant village?</p> <p>Agreed Boston Spa had a lot of shops, but not many businesses. Business centres don't really promote themselves and there is no traders' association.</p> <p>A business hub was discussed, which would allow people to 'drop in' and work flexibly. Concerns were raised that there will soon be two empty shop units. Whilst there are lots of community and sports groups, there is very little for teenagers. A drop-in centre for teenagers (similar to WiSE) with table tennis, pool, games activities and a quiet place to do homework would be a real asset to the village.</p> <p>Is Boston Spa an equal village?</p> <p>Boston Spa is not very ethnically diverse, although there is a broad age range. People who live here below retirement age generally tend to be career focused and have little time to dedicate to volunteering or community work. There is a great disparity between those who are wealthy and those on low incomes or benefits. Social Housing is on the outskirts of the village which makes it difficult for people on lower incomes or with disabilities to access shops and amenities. Parish Council meetings are not well attended by residents. It was suggested that PC meetings are too intimidating, and this puts people off attending. It was suggested the PC hold drop-ins or surgeries where people can discuss issues and give feedback more discreetly. A Parish Council café was also discussed, which could be held for an hour before each Parish Council meeting. This would create a more casual and friendly environment for people to meet and discuss the village.</p> <p>The 'Ask for Angela' campaign was discussed. It was suggested that something similar could be provided for people with mental health issues. There is no men's group in the village. 'Manbassadors' were suggested where representatives in the village undertake Mental Health First Aid training and can be available to help people (particularly men) who are experiencing mental health crises.</p> <p>It was suggested that more spaces should be made available for the growing of food. The allotments waiting list is very long. Incredible Edible was discussed as an urban gardening project.</p>
4.	<b>Next steps for Neighbourhood Planning activity</b>
	Tomas Johnson said he would distribute the notes from the meeting. The next step will be to put a vision together for what is needed in the future.
5.	<b>Discussion : first stage of public consultation</b>
	It was suggested that there be a public open forum held in October. Residents could be asked for input on the elements discussed on the idea cards using various stations around the room. It was agreed an online forum would also be useful for those who are housebound or unable to attend the forum. It is also important to gain feedback from children and teenagers. Tomas Johnson said there was an online facility available

	to do this from East Street Arts and there is a consultation document for young people called ezine.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Membership of Committee</b>
	It was noted that NPAG had now lost two members. It was suggested that the October Forum could be used to engage with the public and to encourage volunteers to come forward.
<b>7.</b>	<b>To consider any correspondence received</b>
	<p>The Parish Clerk had circulated the correspondence. A request had been received from a Staffordshire Council asking the PC to write to their MP. This is following their NP being nullified during a large planning application. Their request was for support in bringing the matter to the Secretary of State. With legislation due to change in October, it was agreed it was not necessary for Boston Spa NPAG to take any action.</p> <p>Two planning companies/developers had contacted the Parish Council with a view to discussing possible land use for future developments at Deepdale and a retirement community at Low Mills Farm. The developers were advised to use the appropriate mechanism of submitting sites through the Leeds Local Plan 2040 review.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>To confirm the date(s) of the next meetings</b>
	<b>Resolved:</b> That the next meeting be held on Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.24.**