

We had a very interesting talk last night from Hugh, who has been very involved in the Pavenham Village Plan. Although Pavenham is a very different village from ours, being much smaller and down for no growth on the Consultation document, hearing about the way they went about the process was very useful and we all felt we had learned a lot from it.

They had a Steering Group, which is all of us.

They then had people they called Local Community Champions. They had each group in the village eg. football club, bowls club, W1, each church group, the mobile home park and had chosen one person from each of these groups. The Champion was responsible for feeding information from the Steering Group to their members and reporting back to the Steering Group on the results from their members.

Then Sub areas: each topic, eg housing, transport, shopping, green spaces etc had a group and there was at least one person from the Steering Group in each group to research the topic they were responsible for.

They used drop box to communicate with anyone who was interested as well as a closed facebook page (whatever that means). They have a web site which is being continually updated, so anyone who is interested knows at all times exactly what is happening.

When they did a survey it was optional, paper or on-line using survey monkey. Every form was serial numbered and the Community Champions distributed and collected the surveys. What Hugh did say was when writing the survey make sure you know what you want your answer for and how you are going to use it and phrase the question accordingly.

At their drop ins they had an extremely large map of the village. He did say that it would cover four of the village hall tables put together. They had different coloured stickers for the different questions. They also provided refreshments for everyone attending, had a photo competition and are able to use many of the photos in writing their plan. They also had a children's area where they had activities for the children to complete.

Hugh also emphasized the need for a historical statement of the village - about 50 pages in the case of Pavenham - and the importance of a complete audit of all the actions taken throughout. we could start on both of these immediately. I do know Linda has done a lot of work on this already for the previous plan she was working on.

Linda raised the need to have a structured plan so that we could set out our courses of action and allocate responsibilities for each bit. This we will discuss at the next meeting.

It was decided that Eric would resurrect the questionnaire he had previously written. We didn't use it at the time because it was decided it might get people focussing on that rather than writing to the Borough Council. Now time has passed for anyone to write in, it was thought it would be a good time to send out a questionnaire.

I have contacted the Borough Council Policy Planning Department and they tell me they have had 1800 responses in all. They cannot tell me how many are from Wilstead and probably will never be able to, because they are just reading the general comments. Doesn't really sound very satisfactory to me but we are in their hands. I will be writing to them saying how unsatisfactory I think this is.

I will be contacting Nadine Dorries again and I will also try our new MP for Bedford and see if we get any response from them.

It was decided to have the next meeting on Wednesday, 12th July at 7.30pm in the small hall, but unfortunately the small hall was already booked so I have booked **Tuesday, 11th July**, and I hope you are all able to attend.