

NOTES OF MEETING OF CELL ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP

29.10.14

Present: K. Hindmarsh, P. Duncan (Local Plan SRC), K. Bradshaw,(Groundwork NE) P Holder,A. Morris,A. Bromley, M. Douglas, J. Gardener , J.Robson, B.Thornton (NCC) Andy Wells, Lucy Moore, Michael Orde (Crown Estates)

Apologies: B. Mead, C. Holder. M Pratt (North Wildlife Trust) A.Cryer, L. Haywood (N.C.C)

A welcome was extended to the representatives of The Crown Estate.

Andy Wells, Head of Countryside Management for The Crown Estate explained how the Crown Estate worked and dealt with some common misconceptions...

1. The Crown Estate is an independent commercial land and property business, created by an Act of Parliament. Crown Estates is part of the possessions of the monarchy, and are managed in the public interest. The Crown Estate assets don't belong to the Government.
2. Managed by the 1961 Crown Estate Act which requires the The Crown Estate to maintain and enhance the value and return from its land and property, "with due regard to the requirements of good management".
3. The Estate is obliged to run commercially and generate revenue, but also aims to be a good steward of its properties. The approach is one of active management – developing, investing, enabling, facilitating and unlocking potential to enhance value, helping drive sustainable commercial returns.
4. The UK-wide portfolio includes significant real estate: in London's West End (Regent Street and St James's); regional retail parks; agricultural land and forests; Windsor Great Park; and around 50% of the coastline and most of the seabed.
5. The Estate has c. £9.9 billion of assets and around £260 million goes to the Treasury each year.
6. Crown Estates can buy sell and lease land and buildings and seeks to work in partnership with businesses, agencies and local communities.

7. Crown Estates has a positive approach to community access to its land, balanced with the requirements of its business interests.

8. Crown estates currently has a Marine Stewardship Fund which is under review and is developing a stewardship programme, which may provide opportunity to fund community projects which could benefit Big Local.

Further details can be found at www.thecrownestate.co.uk

The Estates reported that it has purchased most of the Alcan farmland, including Ellington Dene and is keen to work with CELL to promote sustainable access. This news was welcomed and Pete Duncan (part of the Big Local Project) then gave a resume of the funding, aims, and organisation of the scheme and how it is resident led.

A up to date position statement was given and the importance of working with external agencies as partners particularly in relation to “match funding” was explained.

Matters arising from meeting held on 21/11/14

Only two issues were raised

1 Jean and Kay to liaise re inserting an article in the next issue of Cell Life

2 **Land Ownership** - it was agreed that Crown Estates would supply a map showing the land in their ownership. Taking this information and the land owned by NCC together, it would leave “parcels” to be identified and NCC could assist in identifying the owners of these.

Community Event for adoption of Draft Local Plan 15/11/14

Kevin gave a report on the intended proceedings and the importance of local resident participation in adopting the draft plan. A film had been commissioned and Pete was organising display stands for the respective Task groups. Residents would be able to ask questions about the draft plan and hopefully contribute some input. It was also hoped more residents would volunteer to become involved as the project moves forward.

Map of proposed ideas from the Environmental Task Group

Kay gave a report on the plan she had produced for the Community Event on 15/11/14. Kay explained the short and long term aims of our project, but, emphasised that the long term sustainability /success depended on residents of all ages getting involved and taking on the ownership / stewardship and the maintenance of the project once it became established. It was reported that there have been successful projects in Ashington and Pegswood.

Kay will attend the event, and be available to take questions.

Any other Matters

1 Cllr Milburn Douglas raised the issue of tarmacking the access road to the cemetery and it was agreed this would now be looked at.

2 John asked about Public Footpaths and rights of way on Crown Estates Land and was given advice on how to proceed with any “dispute” of this nature.

Date and Time of Next meeting

To be arranged after the Community Event has taken place