

# **Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Appraisal Group AGM.**

## **Chappel Village School - 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007.**

**Chairman:** Bernard Sibthorp.

**Present:** Stella Hounslow (Treasurer), Chris Alexander (Secretary), Maggie Bowden, Phil Moseley, Angus Forrest, Monica Taylor, Tom & Diana Crozier, Sue Chamley (Chappel Parish Council Rep).

The Chairman welcomed those present and outlined the appraisal process and the progress the group had made. He complimented the Steering Group on its enthusiasm and cohesiveness, whilst high-lighting the substantial strides made so far which had led to a 57% rate of return of questionnaires – a level that compared well with many other villages. After some delay, largely caused by the high response rate, both the full Residential Report and the Business Appraisal are now published. This followed the presentation to residents of the initial report findings in December 2006. Copies of each report have been sent to all Parish Councillors, the Borough Council & County Councillor. Copies are available to all residents on application (01787-220322). The Chairman thanked Maggie Bowden & Monica Taylor in particular for their work on the analysis and preparation of the Residential report. The Chairman outlined the next stages of the process.

- i. To prepare and publish a village design statement.
- ii. To monitor the relevant authorities to ensure that initiatives are in line with residents' wishes as outlined in the appraisal. This process is essential to ensure the public democratic will is respected.
- iii. To seek funding from the RCCE to cover the costs of preparing an action plan and design statement. The RCCE would also provide practical help.

The Chairman noted that several positive developments with a genesis in the Village Appraisal had already come to fruition: he thanked Louise Frank for playing the key role in founding the Fun Factory joint village non-profit making social group, and Ian Farquharson for re-establishing Neighbourhood Watch.

Overall the Chairman felt a real contribution to the community had been achieved by the Appraisal, but so far the group had only addressed the tip of the iceberg. He noted that there had been some in the villages who may not have wished the project well, but this had failed to dampen the total response rate.

It was noted by the secretary that the response rate was higher than the turnout of most County Council, Borough Council & Parish Council elections and this gave the Appraisal authority and

credibility. When asked, there were no dissenters in the room from this view.

**Financial Report.** The Treasurer advised that the group must be amongst the lowest spending bodies. It started the year with a cash balance of £289 and ended it with £178. It was advised that the group had only received one grant 2 years ago.

**Elections.** Maggie Bowden and Sandra Blunden had advised they did not seek re-election to the Steering Group. The Chairman indicated his intention to stand down as Chairman, advising that he felt that two years in the Chair by any individual in any organisation was detrimental to that organisation. He however accepted nomination to the Steering Group.

**Chairman.** Chris Alexander.

**Treasurer.** Phil Moseley.

**Admin Secretary.** Bernard Sibthorp.

**Minute taker.** Stella Hounslow.

**Committee members.** Louise Frank, Monica Taylor, Sue Chamley (Chappel PC rep).

The election of all officers and Steering Group members was unanimous. It was stressed that Parish Councillors have no executive function in order to prevent them having any embarrassing conflict of interest.

The Group will, from time to time, co-opt additional individuals to the Steering Group with particular skills and knowledge.

It was agreed that Stella Hounslow, a Steering Group member before becoming a Councillor, should continue on the Steering Group in her own right, although she could be nominated as the Wakes Colne rep.

Debate followed on the number of Parish Councillors it was sensible to have on the Steering Group. It was generally agreed that one rep from each council was adequate.

Maggie Bowden thanked Bernard Sibthorp for the time and effort he had put into this project.

**AOB.** There being no other business the meeting was closed.

**Minutes approved by all steering group members.**