



**4th Open Meeting  
Wednesday 5 May 2010 at 7.30pm  
Council Chamber, Memorial Hall, Upton.**

**Chair, Tim Perry, welcomed everyone to the Open meeting**

**Present:** Jackie Surtees, Mike Ostick, Simon Wilkinson, Peter Webb, Tim Perry, Diane Bellamy, Andrea Oliver, Peter Booth (PFB), Peggy Booth, Grahame Bunn, Simon Yates, Lavender Beard, Olwen and Geoff Stocks, Joyce Evans, Andrew Sanders, Reverend Jeff Radcliffe, Jo Bowmer, Ron Lyones, Gerald Savine, Janice Savine, S Speers, Cllr Tim Drake, Dave Walker, Alistair Booth, Ross Thomas, Rosemary Webb, Richard Hannah, Peter Bellamy, Gill Newman

**Apologies:** Simon Smith, Roger Sutton

**1. Minutes of Open Meeting 04.11.09**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Resume of Partnership activities and LEADER bid**

**Simon Wilkinson** reported that various projects were still being pursued and appropriate funding sort for them.

Following the presentation at the AGM about the LEADER funding stream, two projects had been identified as possibilities to submit for this money.

- The development of permanent staging for use of the festivals and sun sails to allow for all-weather performances

- To fund a 3 year lease of shop premises for showplace for craft / art groups and to act as a drop-in centre for community groups in the town.

However, for either of these projects to stand a chance of success, they would need to belong to the people of Upton who would benefit from them and have their whole-hearted support and involvement.

A working party was needed to work up the bid – volunteers were requested.

Christine Gledhill has volunteered for the second proposal.

RJR expressed concern that the proposals were too vague, which made it difficult to bring together disparate groups.

MO argued that involving interested parties would solve this.

PFB reminded the partnership that there was an element of the money which allowed for paying someone to help develop the bid – although MO felt that money spent on developing the project could not be included in the bid.

GB asked where the staging would be – this is difficult to specify at present because of the Environment Agency plans for the Waterfront.

PFB offered to help find some volunteers.

The Chair used the success of the Better Welcome project to illustrate how a variety of organisations working together can benefit the town as a whole.

Finally, an appeal was made for volunteers for stewards in the Heritage Centre and for drivers for the Upton Shuttle, which runs on Fridays.

#### **4. Presentation by the Environment Agency**

**Anthony Perry** started by saying that the Environment Agency were working with many groups and individuals to develop the plans for the flood defences for the Waterside.

**Jo Martin** then did a presentation explaining what guidelines they were working to, what the plans were, who they were consulting with and the time-scale for the project.

She explained that the new defences would be resilient, viable and protect the properties to a 1:150 year standard.

The business case for the combined scheme, ie New Street and Waterside had been approved in December 2009.

The position of the gas main in New Street had meant small amendments to the New Street scheme.

#### Waterside:

English Heritage, MHDC and Upton Town Council were all being consulted about the plans for Waterside.

The new design is simpler and will maintain views. The wall will be built with heritage brick and coping, in keeping with surroundings. Wall pillars will be stone – again in keeping with Upton.

The position of the gates has still to be decided.

Glass panels have been introduced at the end of Lower High Street and by The Swan to provide vistas across the river.

Possible permanent road closures are still being debated do residents want this?

Some trees will have to be removed but others will be planted.

The disabled parking spaces will be moved, probably to outside the toilets in Lower High Street.

The wall height will be: 0.9m at Plough; 1.3m by King's Head; 1.7m at Severn Printers; 1.8m by The Swan. This is the height above the existing ground levels and the aim is to raise the road so that the wall is no higher than 1.2m in any location as you stand next to it on the town side.

**There will be an exhibition of the plans, materials etc and demonstration of height, width and route of wall along Waterside on: Thursday 17 June 2010.**

The plans will be submitted in July and subject to gaining the relevant permissions, it is their aim to start work in the autumn along Waterside and spring in New Street.

#### **5. Question and answer session**

The temporary barriers have gone up 11 times in 2 years at an average cost of £25,000 each time.

The glass panels will be 3m maximum in length and the thickness is determined by the weight and length. The exact lengths are still being worked on.

Upton in Bloom will be consulted about future landscaping.

There will be 3 or 4 openings in the wall for footpaths, these are usually steel gates.

The wall will still need pumps behind it.

Some piling will be needed in places to bedrock – looking to doing bored mini pile to minimise vibration.

The new flood defences should have an impact on insurance costs and house prices – insurance companies have a 75 year break. Properties

protected by the scheme will no longer be at 'significant' risk for insurance purposes.

It was requested that a Maypole socket could be inserted in the roadway - this is to be fed into the Town Council Working Party.

It was felt that the festivals would benefit from a permanent road closure.

Tim thanked Jo and Anthony for the presentation

### **Any Other Business**

There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**The next Open meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 4 August 2010 at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall.**