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Laura Dunning – Power for All  
Ian Pyke – Power for All  
Olivia Lyons – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
Judith – Zero Carbon Rugeley Ambassador  
Bill Douthwaite – Power for All  
Chris Langdon – Engie  
Dale Sager - Engie  
Pat Ansell

Olivia – Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – NPs were introduced in Localism Act 2011. This is the community's opportunity to make decisions about where we live. It is the creation of an overall strategy / goal for the town. From that goal we then develop policies that guide future planning decisions. Any policies must be in accord with the Cannock Chase local plan and interpret these policies for the community. The development of the NP must be community led.

From this, we look at proposals, what facilities we need locally, what the residents are needing to support their lives, is there something missing from Rugeley that the Neighbourhood Plan can help with? Are we missing different types of housing? Any development going forward must be suitable for the community.

What would like to see on land plots? Different policies for different themes.

What's happening now: we are developing a questionnaire to go to the community getting a greater understandings.

How does a NP get approved? It will go out to a referendum in the community and providing more than 50% of those voting supported it, the NP gets fed into the statutory Local Plan. The NP influences decisions on district planning committee.

Need to engage with all the community – different ages, different abilities, different interests.

Questionnaire divided into 5:

Infrastructure - Education, community, leisure, retail/commercial

Housing - types of housing, tenure, density, appearance, approve, affordability, senior living

Environment – canal system, opportunities of the canal, rural landscape, protecting the green boundary, how we can better utilise areas

Transport – public transport, different means of transport, links to other areas, use and condition of roads

Local Economy – employment opportunity, redevelopment, regeneration of Rugeley Town Centre to create a local hub, evolving and changing nature of high streets and adaptation for future proofing.

Power for All – vital for community to have a say for what is going to happen. Appreciated the input to the questionnaire. The communities input on all the consultation sessions for the Power Station Site.

Encourage everyone to get involved and interested

P4A have held community forum groups relating to the consultation on the Power Station Site.

Bill Douthwaite – people have to be engaged. Town Council needs to engage them but the community has to be engaged too so that it informs council decisions. Question how people will engage with questionnaire over the internet – may need to do a hard copy that will be delivered to the whole town. The questionnaire is necessary but may be off putting. Engagement at any level would be good. Even if individuals wanted to comment on part of this.

Possibility of creating tourism for the area – extending a 2 hour visit into 2- or 3-night stay.

Possible overwhelming nature of the whole questionnaire – could we operate small polls on elements of the questionnaire – getting our statistics and responses on this. Look at the positives and how we can build on these rather than just focussing on the bad.

Engaging the community is the Neighbourhood Plans biggest challenge. How can we make the questionnaire more inviting and encourage a greater response? Contact people at different times of the day, different days of the week, different pick up / drop off points.

Sam Bird – very active community over the various local pages – possibly feasible to release questions on a weekly basis over Facebook medium?

Cllr Martin – great to get community groups involved as they will provide more of the answers. However, also important to get to those individuals who are not in groups and on social media. This is a way of contacting those people.

Laura – Power for All – fantastic community of groups and organisations that can reach a number of our people. Rugeley is unique in this area.

Chris Langdon – Engie – Found that early engagements for the power Station Development was really exciting – communities are often formed around themes so to break down the questionnaire would be a good idea. Re the NP and the Rugeley power Station and Zero Carbon Rugeley. Large amount of investment coming in through the Section 106 opportunities associated with the power station development. The spend of tis will be guided through the Neighbourhood plan. The Engie evidence base is useful for the NP development.

Olivia – agree need to engage with all elements of the community. We have the time to really make sure that everyone's voice is heard. To develop a vision that the whole town is behind, engagement is the key. Only NP carries the weight on planning decisions with the community interest at heart. Don't want overkill or duplication on work already done as we can risk engagement fatigue. Questionnaire in bite size chunks may be a solution.

Bill: timescale: need to keep the community aware of what's happening as it goes on so we don't lose the community. Engagement with schools. Can we build on the curriculum with the development of the NP. Engie is outside of the NP area – how will the plan link to things happening outside the area but directly impacting.

Need to engage with developers – they can help with the cross boundaries. Being realistic and achievable with the broader business community.

All the local neighbourhood plans link into the district council local plan and to the Cannock Chase AONB overview. For places to survive and develop, there needs to be more cross district conversations.

In Pyke – always an element of the community that wants it how it used to be – that is never going to happen – town centres are continually changing. Do will sell this vision? Capturing the heritage that we do have is our way of linking to our past. Celebration of the wealth of history in the town.

Boundaries: heritage: this is part of the future. We are on a constant journey – we all have our own perceptions of what has gone wrong / what is important to people and work with them to create future policies. Look back before we look forward. The NP is a growing, evolving document. The final document will need to adjust and develop as peoples' ideas and views changes.

Deadlines: Summer for sending out the questionnaire and undertaking community engagement then autumn for getting the responses back and looking to develop policies.