**Bigbury Neighbourhood Plan**

South Hams District Council have now granted approval for the preparation of the Bigbury Neighbourhood Plan so we now need start thinking about the Vision and Objectives of the plan and how these can be achieved.

As part of this process we are wanting to engage with the whole of the community including residents, land and property owners and people who own or work in businesses based in the parish.

We will be holding a meeting in the Memorial Hall, St Ann’s Chapel at 12 noon on 12th March 2016 to hear people’s views on what they consider makes our area special, what they would like to see retained and/or improved and what changes, if any, people would like to see as part of the future planning for this area.

We also now need to set up a Steering Group of about 8 to 10 people who will meet on a monthly basis and will be actively engaged in the preparation of the plan including the gathering of evidence and ensuring that the plan is fully reflective of the views and wishes of the community.

Membership of the Steering Group will include at least two representatives from the Parish Council who will be able to provide a vital link reporting to the Parish Council about the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and helping to ensure that other parish councillors (and the public via the parish council meetings) are kept abreast of what is happening.

The rest of the Steering Group will be made up of volunteers who can bring useful skills and knowledge, and who will be able to assist in the gathering of evidence and lead consultations with the community at large. It is envisaged that individual members of the group will lead on particular projects and/or policies.

If you would like to be included as a member of the Steering Group could you contact Valerie Scott, who is currently leading the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Please let her know the knowledge, experience and/or skills you would be able to offer to the group. For those who may not be able to commit fully to this role but may wish to assist in other ways then please also let Valerie know of your interest in doing this. Her contact details are set out below.

We would like to be able to set up the Steering Group during or following the meeting on 12 March so it would be useful to know in advance from those wishing to join. However, there will be an opportunity to advise of your interest in joining the group during the meeting. Members of the group may change during the preparation of the plan as new people become interested or can offer various skills.

There will be regular reporting of the progress of the plan through Parish Council meetings and other communication channels including the Bigbury News, the Bigbury Community Website, notice board updates and letter box drops. Notices will be given regarding the times of the Steering Group meetings and these will be open to all people who might wish to attend.

We hope that as many parishioners as possible will be able to come to the meeting on the 12 March to give us your views on the matters that you consider to be important for the future planning of this area.

Valerie Scott

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