

Hughenden Valley Residents Association

“Planning for the Future”

Discussion Paper for Executive Committee

At the first 2 meetings of the “**Planning for the Future**” group it was decided that the following areas would be explored and the results put to the November Executive Committee meeting for consideration and approval.

- **Membership Model and Subscription**
- **Review of the *News* and website**
- **Supporting the Expansion of Community Events at the Village Hall**

The core group has now suggested that these recommendations be put through the following tests of potential benefits, opportunities presented and the risks and rewards of implementation.

This is aimed at stimulating debate so that a way forward can be agreed.

Membership Model and Subscription

Recommended that the requirement to pay a membership subscription be removed from the HVRA Constitution effective from May 2024.

Benefits:

- Every resident would be deemed a member, unless they opt out
- Increases our membership - increases our clout
- Many RRs find collection of subs a chore
- Fewer fruitless visits for RRs
- Less work for the treasurer
- Regularises the HPC Grant position re *News*
- Would free up RRs to do other things

Opportunities:

- Could expand the pool of RRs as no longer need to collect money
- The role of RRs could be redefined
- More interesting responsibilities could be considered

Risks:

- We may not be able to replace the £2,500pa subs
- Could cut off contact between RRs and residents

Rewards:

- Could make recruitment of younger RRs easier

Review of the *News* and website

Recommended that significant change is required in this area including upgrade of the HVRA website, review of social media communication and a wholesale review of the purpose and impact of Hughenden *News*. Further consideration and collaboration is

required to agree a way forward given the overwhelming view of the group that change is required.

Benefits:

- There is a perception that *News* and the website are tired and need a refresh
- We are not sure how widely or deeply it is read
- Coincides with HPC survey of Residents Associations, to identify issues
- Modernisation of our approach could lead to engagement with wider base

Opportunities:

- Could consider other models and formats in use in other communities
- Could access funding sources
- Engage with creative thinking
- Develop direct link between *News* and website
- Achieve lower production costs
- Should we partner with another body?
- Could *News* production costs be reduced, without losing revenue?
- Should *News* be floated off as an independent operation?

Risks:

- Not enough resources, financial, human and expertise

Rewards:

- New approach could be 'shot in the arm' of HVRA

Supporting the Expansion of Community Events at the Village Hall

Recommended that HVRA supports an increased focus on organising community events catering for a larger proportion of our community. The establishment of a sub-group is recommended to take this forward.

Benefits:

- Could introduce us to completely new groups of residents
- Could raise the profile of HVRA - if tabled HVRA

Opportunities:

- Lots of possibilities already identified (Michael's list)

Risks:

- Other groups may replace HVRA

Rewards:

- Perception of HVRA could rise in the community

Peter Spence
Wednesday, 18 October 2023