



**Venue:** Saxon Hall, Raunds  
**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (7.30pm to 9pm)  
**Attendees:** Cllr Pauline Williams (Mayor)  
Cllr Helen Howell  
Julian Dereham (Town Clerk)  
Sean Silver (ENC)  
Lucy Foster (ENC)  
30 members of the public (approximately) representing residents and businesses  
Andrew Seaman (Chair of the Chelveston NDP Working Party) as an observer.

Prior to the start of the meeting I introduced myself to the members of the Raunds Town Council (RTC) and stated that I was attending the meeting as an observer and that I was the Chair of the Chelveston NDP Working Party. I was welcomed to the meeting and invited to attend future meetings if I desired.

Julian Dereham confirmed that he had been in contact with Stanwick and Ringstead because they shared borders with Raunds and that he was planning to make contact with Chelveston-cum-Caldecott to 'forge links'.

I also introduced myself to the ENC representatives who are more than happy to attend any of our meetings to provide assistance where required.

I confirmed to both Julian Dereham and the ENC representatives that I would discuss this further with the Chair of the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council before making any commitments.

I asked Sean Silver (ENC) why the Town Council were engaging in such a process having relatively recently completed the Raunds Masterplan (2011) (see [NDP-0049](#)). He stated that the intention is to use the masterplan as a backdrop to creating the Raunds Vision which will then inform the Neighbourhood Plan. He also stated that RTC had started the Neighbourhood Plan and then decided (based on advice from ENC) that they would be better pausing this and engaging with the residents and businesses to create a vision or community plan first. The referendum to approve the plan would be run by ENC.

The meeting was led by Julian Dereham using a PowerPoint presentation (a copy of which was to be made available on the RTC website along with other material made available at the meeting)

The meeting followed an agenda which comprised the following items under which I have made some notes on the key points that were raised under each item:

1. Welcome and introductions – The Mayor Cllr P Williams
2. Minutes of the previous meeting - 17 June 2013
3. Establishing the new group
  - a. Need to appoint a chairman and working group at the next meeting (nominations/volunteers invited by submitting CV's to the Council).
  - b. Want to keep the group separate from RTC
  - c. Want it 'run by the people for the people' by establishing a working group
  - d. Trying to create a vision that will take the town to 2023
4. What's the group going to do?
  - a. Ask – questionnaires, door to door, leaflets, events & meetings
  - b. Record – input data (evidence) into a database held and operated by RTC
  - c. Tell – publish the results prior to a referendum, events and meetings
  - d. RTC and ENC informed the meeting that a template questionnaire had been prepared which the working group could alter as they wished. This is currently being used elsewhere. This was not well received by the attendees as they felt that the

questionnaire was being foisted on them as a 'done deal' and that they would merely become leaflet deliverers

5. What time have we got?
  - a. Complete the exercise by December 2013
  - b. Appoint chair and decide on the content of the questionnaire in August (the general feeling was that this was unrealistic in this holiday season)
  - c. Issue and return of the questionnaire in September/October
  - d. Input data/publish in November/December. Volunteers to work at home, the Council offices or library inputting data were sought
6. Raunds: 'The good, the bad and the ugly?'
  - a. Slideshow of recent photographs taken around the town
  - b. Instigated a general moan from residents about the state of the town and questions of the Council on what they were doing about it
  - c. Suggestions from RTC and ENC on what the vision could do for Raunds in terms of grants and funding streams available, community group work, and self help (which was not received very well by the attendees)
7. Group exercise – Raunds in 2023
  - a. Not completed – out of time
8. Engage the Public
  - a. Generally covered during the debates around the items above
  - b. How will you consult with the school children of Raunds (who will be adult residents in 2013) as we are now in the holiday period? RTC stated that discussions had been held with two head-teachers in Raunds
  - c. Residents became quite animated at points leaving the impression that they were voicing a level of frustration with RTC
9. Calendar of meetings – four weekly
  - a. 7 August
  - b. 4 September
  - c. 2 October
  - d. 30 October
  - e. 27 November
  - f. 18 December
10. Open forum – any questions
  - a. Not completed – out of time but generally dealt with during the items above
11. Date of next meeting and close
  - a. 7 August 2013
  - b. The meeting closed at 9pm

In overall terms I would say that the RTC proposal as presented was not well received and that there was a general consensus that the residents expected RTC to sort this out, that if they got involved they would not be listened to and that it was a waste of time.

One resident reminded the meeting that certain individuals present at the meeting were generally negative and backward looking and that to make Raunds a good place to live and work was in the residents' hands and that as a group it was important that they were forward looking.