

Ginger Group meeting 2016-02-27

Present: RP, RR, PoB, DW, AW, LW, MD, MF, SF, JB, PB, RD, LW, AS, PW
Apologies: CMcD, ND, SB, PS, CS, JP

RR: Conor & Neil to put together detailed costings for renovation, ramps, values of both sites, Bardfield and Thaxted. Serving to concentrate the mind & planning. Nurture our further consideration.

Bishop stated "not my diocese" it's "our diocese". Similarly in our parish, RR: it's not my parish, it;s our parish.

Stewards of the Gospel information now available from the Diocese. 100th anniversary of our diocese next year.

LW: suggestion that applicant ought to be a family person, familiar with schools, church, family

PoB: seeking clarification of application process: Little, if any, parish involvement in selection of candidates. Decision is made by the Diocese on the advice of the parish priest.

RR: Outline of application document; background on laity involvement, post-Vatican II.

Aiming to appoint stewards before the end of Lent.

NR: question about how much "banging the parish gong" can be done within the direct context of the DSPG.

DW: Should not be necessary to provide any preferential treatment - we're very obviously on the radar already, Damian on the DSPG, past visit by Fr. Headon already. There may be any sorts of clergy or parishioners who could be resistant to change.

The current timespan of the Steward roles is 2 years, voluntary, appointed by Easter with training over the next six-seven months.

How will the Stewards plan synchronise with the existing Ginger Group? What do the "Best Practice" outcomes of the GG look like and how would they be presented to the wider Stewards group?

General consensus we should try to keep ahead of the curve and maintain impetus - continue to represent forward-thinking, grassroots movement.

RD: proposal that votes are taken on any proposals, to be minuted, then presented and minuted at the parish council.

NR: Stewards should be running the Ginger Group meetings after their appointment. General agreement.

LW: Need to formalise the Ginger Group a little, at least to the point of having an agenda

and documenting decisions. Either way need to improve communication between the two groups.

SF: Observation that there are still parishioners in both centres who don't even know where the other Mass centre is.

LW/PoB: Agree the need of having two stewards, one for each Mass centre.

MD: Two stewards may also improve our proportional representation within the DSPG.

NR: Still need to maintain one Ginger Group.

AW: Preferable to have both Bardfield and Thaxted representation

RP: discussion of involvement of thaxted parishioners in the group - consensus there is no need to have occasional meetings at Thaxted.

Observations that volunteers for the likely onerous positions may be sparse, however **ultimately any stewards, from our parish, appointed by the Diocese should have full support of our Ginger Group.**

SF: question about item clearance - garage sale / house clearance & timings.
- Response: nothing before the end of March

PW: question about timings vs. spending. Consensus short term tactical spends for H&S, fire escapes are immediate requirements and need completion regardless of long term strategy

Next meeting pencilled in for 16th April 2016 - after Easter and hopefully after the appointments of Stewards by the Diocese.