REFLECTIVE NOTES

MEETING: Friday 15th July

- → After liaising with The Chair, the steering group chair, via email over the past couple of weeks, he wanted to get dates sorted for me to do film work with the working groups
- → Many emails had gone out offering the opportunity to be involved in my work but no one had responded. It seemed the further decisions were devolved away from The Chair at the centre of steering group, the harder it became to get decisions and engagement.
- → The Chair had clear ideas about the footage he wanted to capture and he was pushing the working groups to organise something with me.
- → P1, the chair of the tourism group, arrived at the meeting early and The Chair introduced us.
- → P1 and I had had a short email conversation where he was keen to take part but then communication stopped.
- → I briefly chatted with P1, recapped my research and the purpose of the filming and he immediately agreed to Thursday the following week.
- → Others from the steering group arrived, there were about 7 people, including The Chair, and then there was me. Not as many as has been there before.
- → As the meeting started, The Chair veered away from the set agenda to speak about my work first. He encouraged all those at the table to agree to take part in the filming.
- → P10, a member of the youth working group, was keen. She had responded to previous emails and was very keen but the chair of her group had never contacted me. She immediately agreed to set up a date for the week after next.
- → The Chair went around the table and there were members present from each of the working groups except employment and transport. Every group agreed to work with me, some arranged days there and then and others said they would email me with timescales.
- → There were lots of questions about the purpose of the video and it was clear some individuals were on board and could see the value and others were not so sure. I made it clear that it was up to them whether they wanted to take part
    - ► Although this created an interesting power dynamic between me as a researcher and The Chair as chair of the steering group who was pushing for the filming to be done
- → P3, a loud character who at previous meetings has gotten into arguments with other members of the group, was quite inquisitive and was asking how long the films should be, what their purpose was, who they should be aimed at etc.
- → I explained that it was for them to decide, I was there to facilitate the filming and the process but what kind of film they wanted to produce and who for would be up to them.
- → There was a discussion about the lengths of each film and I tried to explain how Bootlegger works and that not all the footage captured would need to be used. The group were quite keen for the timing of each shot to be short
- → From then, the meeting progressed with an update from each working group as to what they had been up to, where their focus had been and what they were wanting to do

- → The groups were all at very different stages with some having submitted comprehensive reports to the steering group already and others hadn't met as a whole group yet.
- → During the course of the meeting, there were a couple of issues raised within the conversations in relation to planning issues that the group were unsure about. The county planning officer, would normally answer these questions, but as he was not present, they deferred to me for advice.
    - ► At this point I changed roles from a researcher to a consultant/advisor
- → I was unable to answer all of the questions but said that the planning officer would know or that I could find out
- → As well as this, they were discussing what policies the neighbourhood plan would have to adhere to and there was a discussion around whether it would be the old Berwick saved policies or the emerging Core Strategy. I was able to provide advice based on previous information that the planning officer had provided them.