

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

27 June 2013

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Present:

Carol Cholerton	Martyn Luscombe
Helen Crook	Harry Nicholls
Elizabeth Dixon	Neil Pearce – Planning Consultant
Andrew Dow	Richard Rose
Peter Emmerson	David Stephenson
Mark Haselden - Chairman	Sarah Summers - Clerk
Trevor Honychurch	

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Charles Bates, David Bowie, Kate Rolfe, Dave Savage and Moira Tsokalis.

2) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2013 were approved as a correct record.

3) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the six weeks campaign and press coverage to raise awareness of the Open Days had far exceeded expectations. He paid tribute to both Richard Rose and Val Harris who have worked for hundreds of hours to prepare for this exhibition. He also thanked Andrew Dow for stepping in at the last moment to provide the necessary photographs for the display boards.

Mark advised that after the Open Days, Richard and Val, who both have full time jobs, will be stepping down. Richard has, however, agreed to remain on the Steering Group. He thanked Elizabeth Dixon, who has agreed to take over the responsibility of consultation and communication until the end of September.

The Chairman explained that we are now entering a new phase. The Open Days will enable the team to identify things that are blatantly unpopular and could become eventual vote losers. It may be essential to modify the Plan,

issues might have to be removed, or it may be necessary to explain in more detail a particular issue.

However, once the Plan is drafted, the job of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group and management team is virtually ended. The mandating body, the Town Council, will be responsible for its onward journey from draft to implementation, with SDC being responsible for the inspection and the referendum.

Now, the steering group and management team's role is to come up with a draft which is as good and sound as possible, reflecting what the public wants. It then moves into the realms of the elected body, which must make sure the Plan is policed and updated over the years and uses the 25% uncapped CIL which will be passed on from SDC to STC in accordance with the strategic infrastructure requirements contained in the Plan.

The Chairman finished his report by advising that at the next steering group meeting we will look at how to progress the Plan in detail.

4) Update on Communication and Consultation

Richard Rose outlined the six week publicity campaign using power point, which is circulated with these minutes as **Appendix 'A'**.

5) Neighbourhood Plan Open Days

Using power point and pdf files, Richard went through the plan of campaign and layout for the Open Days on Sunday and Monday.

6) Update on Regeneration

David Stephenson advised that approximately 34 letters have been sent to businesses in the regeneration area. A meeting has been held with Tony Bird and Helen Munroe of the Town Trust and local Estate Agents have been briefed as many will represent users and occupiers.

He went on to give brief details of expectations for business park sites which are likely to appear in the Core Strategy, and also those that will not. He advised that there appears to be no support for relief roads in the Core Strategy or a third river crossing.

7) Update by the Planning Consultant - Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Sustainability Appraisal

Neil Pearce advised that SDC appointed consultants to do their Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Sustainability Appraisal which is required

for the Core Strategy. Feedback from SDC confirms that we will be unable to 'piggyback' and do joint appraisals because it has now gone too far down the time line.

SDC has suggested that we approach the same consultant, Lepus Consulting, who will be sending a quote in the next few days. Much of the material provided to SDC will be relevant to our NDP, and could be little more than a 'cut and paste' job, with a corresponding price tag. Using an alternative consultant and starting from scratch may prove very expensive.

We will need to go through a screening process to see if a strategic assessment is required. If it is, we will have to undertake a scoping exercise which involves consultation. If a strategic assessment is not required, then it will be optional to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal.

Neil advised that in his professional opinion, it should still be undertaken – 'look on it as an insurance policy'. You could risk not having it, but developers may well object to brownfield over greenfield, and this omission could be used as a challenge.

Appraisals will be expensive, and SDC has confirmed that there is no money available to assist. An application for Government Locality Funding of £7,000 has been submitted, but it is by no means certain that the funding will be forthcoming,

The Chairman brought proceedings to a close by advising that it is the financing and mandating body which must take the decision, and asked the Clerk to refer the matter to the Town Council as soon as possible.

8) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

9) Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:05pm.

Attachments:

Appendix 'A' - Update on Communication and Consultation – Richard Rose