

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 19 September 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Paul King (Chairman) Peter Gibbons
Steven Ecroyd Ian Weir
Bill Hatton David Cumberland
Penny Wadsworth (for items 1-5)

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from Judith Foot and Geoff Copley.

2. Declarations of Interest. None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June 2013. The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Resolved that items 5 and 6 on the agenda should be treated as confidential and the public present be invited to withdraw. The public present left the meeting.

5. Background Papers and Draft Policy Statements.

a) Policies for Residential Development. Bill Hatton had circulated a revised draft. The housing numbers proposed were comparatively low, but could be defended on the basis of infrastructure constraints. Hassocks was also on the edge of the SDNP, which constrained development, and the large numbers of new houses proposed for Burgess Hill would also have an impact on the village. Some of the sites included could be difficult to deliver, but over the twenty year period of the plan could come forward.

b) Leisure and Recreation. The draft needed developing into a policy document.

c) Environment/Nature. The draft would be refined to develop clear policies, and would be considered with the Leisure and Recreation section to avoid duplication.

d) Traffic and Parking Policy. This would be based on the work of the Parking Working Group, and would be combined with the Public Transport and Highways drafts to provide a clear set of policies on transport and highways issues. The Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common draft Neighbourhood Plan provided a good example.

e) Public Transport Policy. The background paper on transport issues would be used as a basis to develop a policy on encouraging the development and use of public transport, highlighting the present deficiencies.

f) Community Facilities Policy. This needed to be consolidated with the Leisure and Recreation policy.

BH

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IW

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g) Hassocks Village Centre Policy. This would be refined into a statement of the aspirations for the redevelopment of the centre of the village, including open space, residential, retails and possibly some public service building.

h) Business Development and Tourism Policy. This would be revisited.

i) Highways Policy. Options could be put out for consultation, but the policy would have to be developed in conjunction with the parking and public transport policies.

It was agreed that members would submit their revised policies to the Clerk, by no later than **4 October 2013**. Each policy should be dated and include the authors' names for reference. The policies would then be combined into one document, which would be held as a Master in the Parish Office, and any changes would thereafter be made to the master copy. An electronic version would be circulated to members, but printed copies would be made available to members on request.

6. Possible Development Sites. A letter dated 25 June 2013 and an email dated 18 September 2013 had been received regarding two possible sites for development in the village. It was agreed that responses would be sent to both indicating that the council would not favour development on the sites.

7. Next Steps and Consultation Process.

- A master copy comprising the policy work done to date would be compiled after 4 October 2013, as agreed above. It was unlikely that a consultation draft would be ready before the end of the year. Steve Ecroyd would look through the draft to check the style and content for any inconsistencies etc.
- An article for Talk About and an update on the Neighbourhood Plan for the council's website would be prepared to keep the public informed of progress.
- Four consultants, used by other parish councils, would be approached to enquire if they could give advice on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, assist with drafting, and the development of a sustainability appraisal, what time they had available, what expertise they had, and what their scale of charges were. The responses would be considered at the next meeting.
- The preparation of a sustainability appraisal would be included on the agenda for the next meeting. advice would be sought on at what stage the appraisal was required, whether it had to be produced before initial consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan. A copy of a sustainability appraisal, e.g Ardingly, would be circulated electronically.

8. Date of Next Meeting. 17 October 2013 at 7.30 pm.

JF/PW
PK
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All
Clerk
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SE
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Clerk

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.

Chairman Date.....