

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Group Meeting held on Thursday 20 June 2013 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks

Present: Bill Hatton
Judith Foot (Chair)
Ian Weir
Stephen Ecroyd
Peter Gibbons
David Cumberland

Assistant: Pat Elliott

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Paul King, Penny Wadsworth and Geoff Copley. In the absence of Paul King, Judith Foot was appointed to chair the meeting.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2013.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair of the meeting as a correct record.
4. **Resolved that items 5 and 6 should be treated as confidential and any members of the public invited to withdraw.** There were no members of the public present.
5. **Draft Policy Statements arising from each work stream and their incorporation into a Draft Neighbourhood Plan.**
 - a) **Policies for Residential Development .** It was agreed that it is now time to decide on housing numbers and which sites are to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Bill Hatton updated the group on the Infrastructure paper that he is currently working on. To decide on housing numbers, it is necessary to have proper evidence on infrastructure.
Education: Two new classrooms are planned for Hassocks Infant School, but there is no space for any further development on that site after that. Future projections show school numbers dropping away and in any case lack of school places is not a constraint on housing development as WSCC can change catchment areas. In the long term it is possible that the Infant School and Windmills could merge onto one site leaving a brownfield site in the centre of the village.
Ambulance and Fire Services: There are no upgrades planned.
Waste management: There is a proposal to upgrade the Goddards Green Waste Water Treatment Works.
Highways: Geoff Copley has prepared a Highways paper which shows that traffic levels have fallen in the period in the period 2011 to 2013.
 - b) **Leisure and Recreation.** There is a demand for more football pitches in the village and Stephen Ecroyd reported that Hassocks Football Club aspires to an all weather astroturf pitch which would be a community

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facility, which would include use for junior football and other sports. Stephen will prepare a brief on the Football Club's plans.

- c) **Environment/Nature.** It was noted that a substantial area of countryside along the A273 is in use for leisure activities; golf, football and garden centres. Underhill Lane, New Way Lane and Lodge Lane to the south of New Road are identified as Quiet Lanes. There are Conservations Areas in Clayton and Keymer, a SSSI on Clayton Escarpment and several areas of Ancient Woodland. It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan policy should be to protect trees and the countryside and also footpaths and right of way, to maintain views and vistas and to prevent coalescence. Judith Foot and Ian Weir will work together on the Environment and Nature Policy.
- d) **Traffic & Parking.** It was noted that the paper on parking, prepared by Ian Weir is good background material and its recommendations are to be used to produce the Traffic and Parking Policy.
- e) **Countryside, Green Spaces & Landscape Appraisal.** This was covered in paragraph c.
- f) **Public Transport.** Peter Gibbons is to produce a refined down Public Transport Policy based on his paper, for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- g) **Community Facilities.** Judith Foot has prepared a policy from the background paper. Community facilities identified are: The Health Centre, Beacon Centre, Adastra Park, Belmont Recreation Ground and Clayton Recreation Ground. Also the Parklands Road Allotment Site was identified, but it was noted that there is currently a waiting list and this demand for allotments should be met.
- h) **Hassocks Village Centre.** It was noted that the area identified as the site for the development brief is as shown in Appendix 3 (already circulated to the group). It was agreed that it should be stated in the development brief that the area of grass and trees is to be retained. This site is to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan as a potential site for development.
- i) **Business Development & Tourism.** No report.
- j) **Highways.** Geoff Copley had prepared a report for circulation.

6. **Amenities to be provided as part of any future developments.** There was nothing further to be considered.

7. **Date of Next Meeting. 18 July 2013 at 7.30pm.** It was resolved that at that meeting all work streams are to have completed background papers and have formulated policies and extracted information to go directly into the Neighbourhood Plan with policies. A decision on the residential sites for inclusion in the neighbourhood Plan is to be finalised at the September meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

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