

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 15 November 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Ian Weir (Chairman) Peter Gibbons
 Bill Hatton Phil Mead
 Paul King (for items 5-9) Judith Foot

Clerk: Linda Baker

- 1. Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence. In the absence of Paul King at the commencement of the meeting, Ian Weir took the chair.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** Judith Foot declared an interest in Site Assessment 210 (HA/21) Land Opposite Stanford Avenue, London Road, Hassocks, as she lived adjacent to the site.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2012.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 4. Resignation of Leslie Campbell.** It was noted that Leslie Campbell had resigned from the working group. It was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND to council that Penny Wadsworth be appointed as a member of the group.
- 5. Neighbourhood Plan.** Members reviewed the necessity of producing a Neighbourhood Plan, and what the consequences might be of not having a Neighbourhood Plan in place. There were a number of uncertainties surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan process, as none of the front runners had yet gone through the independent assessment and referendum stage. It was also unclear what would happen if a Neighbourhood Plan was rejected at the referendum stage. There was also uncertainty about the housing numbers for the south east, as the South East Plan was still in place, and there was no certainty that the housing numbers MSDC were currently working to would be accepted. The danger of not having a Neighbourhood Plan adopted was that there would be no defence against inappropriate development, and on balance it was agreed that the council should produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The other issue was one of resources. It was agreed that the working group was too few in number to undertake all the work involved in community engagement and developing a Neighbourhood Plan, other council members had not been prepared to contribute to the project, and members of the public had not come forward to join the working group. In looking at housing numbers, Hassocks had already taken significant development, including the Clayton Mills estate, so it was starting from a

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point where infrastructure was already stretched, and this would need to be taken into consideration in looking at future development.

It was agreed that the group would draft an outline Neighbourhood Plan, based on work done by front runner councils, as a basis for public consultation. The Clerk would contact Ringmer PC to ask if they could supply a Word version of the draft Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan for circulation to the group.

Bill Hatton would draft a housing section, and a preamble to the Plan for consideration at the next meeting.

Ian Weir would do some work on an Environment/Nature section.

6. **Housing Workstream.** An informal meeting had been held on 15 November 2012 to consider some of the possible sites identified by MSDC. It was agreed that it was too early to start an assessment of specific sites.
7. **To Agree Councillors to Head Up Specific Sections of the Plan.** This had been dealt with under item 5 above.
8. **Identification of Community Assets.** The new arrangements for identification of Community Assets, introduced by the government in October 2012, would be reported to the council at the 11 December 2012 meeting.
9. **Date of Next Meeting.** 17 January 2012 at 7.30 pm.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....