

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting held on 22 May 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Paul King (Chairman) Peter Gibbons
Steven Ecroyd Geoff Copley
Bill Hatton Judith Foot
David Cumberland

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present was Peter Young from Dowsett Mayhew Planning Consultants.

- 1. Apologies for Absence.** Penny Wadsworth and Ian Credland.
- 2. Appointment of Chairman.** Paul King was appointed as Chairman.
- 3. Declarations of Interest.** None.
- 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 April 2014.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 5. Response to the Public Consultation.** The response to the questionnaire had been slow to date. Copies of the questionnaire and a covering letter from the committee Chairman had been sent to local stakeholders, with a closing date of 15 June 2014.
Peter Young reported that Hurstpierpoint had used two leaflet drops and three open days to engage the public, and developer planning applications had served to increase interest. It was important to have evidence of the measures the parish council had taken to engage the public, even if the response was fairly low.
It was AGREED that Steven Ecroyd would produce a poster which Geoff Copley would distribute to local shops, encouraging residents to complete the questionnaire.
The council's website would be refined to show the Neighbourhood Plan on the front page in one of the tablets.
Geoff Copley would advise on how the responses could be analysed, and the parish office would input the responses.
- 6. Further Public Engagement.** Peter Young circulated a Community Engagement Action Plan by Cuckfield parish council, and would forward an electronic copy for members. Paul King would draft an outline plan for Hassocks based on the Cuckfield model.
It was AGREED that a small sub group, Judith Foot, Steven Ecroyd and Geoff Copley, would draw up proposals for an open day in September

SE
GC

GC

PK

2014 at the Aadastra Hall to engage the public, and report back to the next meeting.

- 7. Methodologies for a Housing Needs Assessment.** Geoff Copley made a presentation on the methodology used by MSDC, and that used by Nathaniel Litchfield on behalf of Thakeham Homes. The different scenarios if applied to Hassocks produced a wide range of figures for future housing need. It was noted that MSDC had based its figures on the 2001 census, which had been superseded by the 2011 census, and that these were being reassessed. It was likely that in towns and parishes where there was heavy developer pressure for new housing, the housing needs assessments incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan would be subject to greater scrutiny, but a recent judgement on a judicial review at Tatton Hall confirmed that parishes could assess their own needs for housing, and not necessarily follow the District pattern. Peter Young would circulate a copy of the judgement for members' information.

The parish council would need to make an assessment of housing need, and should be in "general conformity" with the District Plan, but the council would also have to assess what was deliverable for the village, having regard to development constraints such as the SDNP, maintaining strategic gaps, flooding and environmental considerations etc.

Dale Mayhew would forward all the information required for a housing needs assessment, 2001 and 2011 statistics, and information on constraints, flood risk, heritage, agricultural, SDNP etc, and would forward a list of the documents which would need to be referred to in producing the Plan.

The Working Group would need to engage with developers, and have a matrix which they could test potential development sites against in terms of access, environmental impact, flood risk etc etc. Cuckfield had produced a site assessment methodology, and a copy was circulated. It was AGREED that Geoff Copley would produce a first draft housing needs assessment for Hassocks, in consultation with Dowsett Mayhew.

- 8. DCLG Grant.** The council had been successful in the application for a DCLG grant of £7,000 towards the cost of the neighbourhood plan, for consultant's fees, to be spent by December 2014.
- 9. Community Energy Plan.** Paul King and David Cumberland had met members of the HKD Transition Group before the meeting to discuss the group's ideas for a Community Energy Plan. It was agreed that the HKD Transition Group would put forward ideas and information for consideration in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 10. Date of Next Meeting.** 3 July 2014 at 7.30 pm. (The PR&C meeting on this date would be rescheduled).

JF,SE,
GC

DM

All

GC/DM

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....