

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting held on 24 April 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: David Cumberland (Chairman for items 1-4)  
Paul King (Chairman for items 5-10)  
Steven Ecroyd  
Bill Hatton  
Judith Foot  
Peter Gibbons  
Penny Wadsworth (for items 1-8)  
Geoff Copley  
Ian Credland

Clerk: Linda Baker

In attendance: Dale Mayhew, Director, Dowsett Mayhew.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** None.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 March 2014.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Questionnaire.**
  - a) **Arrangements for launching the questionnaire.** The questionnaire had been printed in the May 2014 Talk About, which was being circulated. A large print version was available from the Parish Office, and the questionnaire had been put on the parish council's website.
  - b) **Follow up Public Engagement Activities.** Dale Mayhew said that the government had issued explanatory guidance on NP preparation, and that engagement and feeding back to residents was important. It was important to give feed back at an early stage, not necessarily commenting on the views expressed by residents, but giving some information on the responses so far. This could be done via the council website, through a medium like Talk About or through an email contact list collected from returned questionnaires. There was also a need to engage with other groups, developers, land owners etc. MSDC would have a list of sites which developers had put forward in the past, which could be used to develop a contact list. Businesses should also be contacted, perhaps via a trade association or other representative group. It was preferable to make these contacts on a face to face basis, by members of the

All

Working Group. It was important to have evidence as to how all these consultations were conducted, how many people responded etc.

Once a list of potential development sites had been put together, the sites would need to be evaluated against a carefully planned matrix to identify sites to be included in the NP, and the choices would need to be supported by evidence as to how the sites were weighted.

- 5. Housing Needs Assessment.** Dale Mayhew said that AIRS housing needs assessments, whilst useful for social housing, were too narrow and not robust enough to be the sole evidential back-up for housing figures for a NP which could hope to pass examination. There should be a full and objective housing needs assessment to support the housing numbers in a NP. It was however hard to identify “need” as this could include local need, inward migration, changes to household size, economic growth etc. The parish could choose to base projections on a proportion of the MSDC figures for new housing in the District Plan, but it was not clear when the MSDC figures would be finalised, and it appeared that the draft District Plan was based on an under-estimate of the current population, and that therefore it could be argued that the forward projections under-estimated the number of new houses required.

HPC could do some modelling using methodology based on MSDC’s modelling for the district and in the evidence produced by developers for the Hurstpierpoint planning inquiry on the three sites which had been called in. Dale Mayhew would circulate a link to the two documents to members and discuss with Geoff Copley how these examples of modelling might be used to develop a housing needs assessment for Hassocks. Geoff Copley would then make a presentation to the next meeting on how housing need might be assessed.

- 6. Application for a DCLG grant.** It was agreed that an application would be made, based on a budget breakdown similar to that submitted by West Grinstead Parish Council.
- 7. Vision for the Village Centre.** Judith Foot said that the parish council had a long term ambition to see the village centre re-developed, and thought that the council should be approaching the owners of the sites in the village centre to see if they had any future aspirations for these sites. It was noted that Geoff Copley would contact the owner of the National Tyres site to see if he had any long term plans for the site, and report back to the next meeting.
- 8. Community Energy Plan.** Paul King reported that he had contacted the HKD Transition Energy Group to invite them to attend a pre-

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meeting on 22 May 2014 to discuss how elements of their Community Energy Plan might be incorporated into the NP.

9. **Co-options to the Committee.** The committee agreed that Georgia Cheshire would be invited to join the committee, assuming she was comfortable that she felt able to meet the time commitment required.
10. **Date of Next Meeting.** 22 May 2014 at 7.30 pm.

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

Chairman.....

Date.....