

## **HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting with representatives of Hassocks Golf Club at 7.00 pm on 26 March 2015 in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks**

Present: Denys Cole, owner Hassocks Golf Club  
Mike Ovet, Manager Hassocks Golf Club  
Chris Beaver, Planning Consultant

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group: Ian Credland, Steven Ecroyd, Judith Foot, Frances Gaudencio, Peter Gibbons,

Clerk: Linda Baker

The Golf Club had revised plans for development on the site following comments made by parish council representatives at the previous meeting on 18 December 2014.

The proposed housing development had been moved further east on the site, and the owner was prepared to donate the golf course and unused land to the district or parish council, at zero cost, provided the golf course was granted a lease in perpetuity at a peppercorn rent, which would ensure that no further development could take place on the site once the current proposed development had taken place.

An outline plan of the site and landscape masterplan were tabled.

The golf course was loss making, and reducing the course from 18 to 9 holes and subsidising it with the housing development would enable the course to continue operating and generate more jobs.

The proposed scheme would be sustainable, have social benefits, meet the need for new housing in the village, and have a minimal impact on the landscape.

The new club house would generate more business and could also be used for non-golf functions.

A landscape led approach had been taken, the housing development would be low density, and the drainage issues on the site had been taken account of.

Land adjacent to the Belmont recreation ground could be made available for additional p-laying pitches, or to create space for a single form primary school. None of the existing footpaths would be affected, and there would be additional landscaping and tree planting.

An outline application would be made indicating the density and location of housing, but the design and mix of housing had yet to be determined. The scheme would comprise 209 units, including 35% affordable, and 12 self-build plots.

Discussions had been held with HAB, a sustainable construction company, and the golf club would be carrying out the development in partnership with a developer. The owner was keen to see a sustainable, eco-friendly style of development.

Transport and air quality consultants had been employed to look at the traffic and air quality issues, and the submissions made by Gleasons on the Ham field

development had been studied in this regard. The design included making the site accessible by non-car means.

It was not known whether the possible impact of the Burgess Hill northern arc development had been considered, and the Golf Club would get back to the NPWG on this question.

The hydrologist and landscape architect had incorporated swales into the design, which would collect run-off water.

Golf Club representatives would like their site to be a preferred site in the NP and would like to work with the NPWG. They asked about progress and timescales for the NP.

The binary results of the questionnaire and public events in January 2015 were now on the parish council website, and the comments were currently being analysed and would be published. The Scoping report was also on the HPC website. Other parts of the site assessments were being completed and landowners were being contacted where availability was not yet known. Once all the stakeholders had been spoken to, another consultation event would be held, and then the sites would be considered by the parish council. The next consultation would probably take place in a couple of months' time. The draft plan should be available in early autumn 2015.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.