

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CRANBROOK & SISSINGHURST
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 21st
AUGUST 2017.

PRESENT: Cllr. Warne (N.W - in the Chair), Cllrs. Clifford (B.C) Cook (D.C), Fletcher (K.F) & Hartley (M.H), Lee Hatcher (L.H), Annie Hatcher (A.HA) Liz Daley (L.D), Annie Hopper (A.H), Nem Goodman (N.G), Tally Wade (T.W) & Jeremy Boxall (J.B)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Veitch & Matthew Warne.

The Chairman read out the following statement:

Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

Cllr. Hartley declared an interest as owner of the Providence Chapel.

1. Re-assignment of Sissinghurst Vice Chair:

Cllr. Warne welcomed Cllr. Clifford to the Steering Group and proposed Cllr. Clifford be appointed the vice chair for Sissinghurst. This was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

2. Grant Application:

Nothing further to report.

3. Task Groups:

Task Group C – Consultation & Engagement – L.D & T.W –

- 2 page document online on the NDP website, outlining the policies making this document clearer, easier to read & avoiding contradiction.
- Questionnaire is now online on the NDP website. Responses are already being received.
- Residents are coming forward to volunteer for the various task groups.
- T.W gave an overview on the responses and what residents feel are important under the policy headings – examples were road & travel safety, protecting key green spaces, improving sport & leisure facilities, local food production, local public conveniences, prospect of a new town square, development brown sites, community building, protect AONB, protect rural lane networks, support local activities, places for the community centre, improving night time opportunities, protecting and improving important buildings, protecting views, cycle routes, supporting tourism and different types of farming.
- T.W & L.D will continue to collate the information received from the questionnaire and hope to come back to the next meeting with more details. There had also been comments raised on questions missing from the questionnaire.
- L.D will pass the details to the relevant task groups with possible new volunteers.
- Questionnaires will be printed off and made available in the Weald Information Centre and at the Sissinghurst Fete.
- Ways to reach all the residents within the parish are being looked at.

Task Group D – Design & Architecture – T.K & M.H –

Nothing to report

Task Group D – Cranbrook Town Centre – L.H & K.F –

- Considerations were discussed on how to engage local businesses.

- A draft questionnaire has been put together for local businesses asking what the businesses want from Cranbrook, the needs of the employers and what makes businesses stay, what are the drivers of their business. Feedback from the steering group was welcomed.
- They will use the listings on the Cranbrook & Sissinghurst PC website to use as a guide of businesses & groups in the Parish. The group will try and personally approach the local business to make sure they are filled in.
- Points raised – would be worth looking at new businesses or solely focusing on existing? Should this be a parish wide questionnaire or focusing just on Cranbrook? Homeworkers will they be reached?
- Extra volunteers are required to help with visiting the businesses to fill in the questionnaire.

Task Group E – Education & Employment – D.C & K.F –

- Educational sites have been identified
- Contact the schools & pre – schools to discuss enrolment – are they at full capacity? Do they need to expand?
- Current/on-going business development schemes at Cranbrook School & High Weald Academy.
- Long term space at the local primary schools – should they need to expand, does the parish have the space to allow this?
- Adult & skills education – what provision is available? Are there any classes running? I.T facilities to be considered.
- Employment – ties in with the questionnaire from the Town Centre task group. Looking at what skills/qualifications are needed or holding the business back? What skills are critical?
- Collating the above will show how far people travel to work in Cranbrook with the right skill sets.
- To assist with a figure of futures houses to accommodate key workers – nurses, teachers, emergency services etc.
- Cllr. Cook will attend The Pudding Club as an attendee.

Task Group F – Infrastructure – J.B, M.W & D.C –

Nothing to report

Task Group F – Public WCs – D.C & B.V –

- Exploring options on where the public conveniences could be best placed.
- Community Centre is an option.
- This is a serious topic being looked into & discussed at present by PC & TWBC.

Task Group H – Heritage – A.HA & A.H, CCAAC –

- Good number of attendees which provided a useful meeting discussing the strengthening & protecting existing buildings.
- Lack of heritage brown signs into Cranbrook and displaying tourist sites. This could add up to £15,000 – who would cover this PC or who? Could there be an alternative way of displaying local tourist attractions?
- Re-surfacing of coach park to encourage more visitors.
- Discussions were had around how to encourage more visitors to the area.
- The exit at Co-Op would need to be discussed with Kent County Cllr. Sean Holden – with regards to improving the exit of the car park.
- Walks around local areas – do they need to be updated? Include geocaching and making them more available on the internet. Could more information be placed in local shops, pubs and businesses? Explore Kent has the walks available.
- Tourism Group was discussed and when they meet. It was suggested to meet with the members of this group to discuss ideas further.
- They hope to collate information and want it readily available in one place so visitors can look in one place.

- Updating the local wall maps
- Large number of visitors to Sissinghurst Castle, do not necessarily visit Cranbrook.
- Cranbrook School 500th Anniversary could be a collaboration possibility.
- There are up to 25 halls in the parish available to rent. June Bell will be working on this to collate a list. Could there be a central data base to display these details? T.W suggested Hall for Hire website where lists local spaces.
- Discussion had around existing twittens – pedestrian & cycle access to encourage sustainability in walking & cycling.

Task Group H – Providence Chapel – A.HA & A.H –

- Discussions had around the use of the building – community use or Kino. Overall a positive discussion.
- Three public bodies for funding opportunities to approach – Heritage Funding, Historic England and Heritage Enterprise.
- Approaching TWBC – Mark Stephenson to gather further information advice.
- Next steps – June Bell to carry on collating hall hire details and discussing Providence Chapel further.

Task Group L – Landscape – M.H & N.W –

- Landscape policy was discussed in detail
- The PC had sent off a list of available green spaces to TWBC for Green Spaces designation. Topics covered by the group were – how to protect and enhance, encouraging connections between them & protecting them.
- Policy to assist local farmers to support modern farming methods and making it easier to diversify and making it sustainable. Approaching local farmers for this information.
- Consideration of a questionnaire being compiled asking – what are you using your land for now? Are you using all your land? What would you like to use your land for in the future?
- Does a question on the topic of Brexit need to be added? What changes do they envisage will have an impact on them?
- The group will gather further information from Kent High Weald AONB Unit and bio - diversity data from Kent Wildlife Trust & other data sources, footpath information and non-PROW routes and other data sources being used.
- N.W will liaise with L.H and K.F to form a questionnaire that covers both businesses and farmers.
- It was highlighted that the NDP needs to focus on the key points – land, people and skills. Not everything discussed will be policy but are possible projects for outside of the NDP.
- A discussion was had around planning and the consequences that arise in problematic areas.

Task Group M – Access & Movement – J.B & A.H –

Nothing to report

Task Group S – Sissinghurst – B.C, J.B & J.S

Nothing to report

T.W highlighted once all the information has been collated what format/framework should this sent to Richard Eastham? A discussion was had over how to prioritise findings from the task groups. T.W wanted further clarification on the output that is delivered to Richard Eastham. N.W will approach Richard Eastham.

4. Housing:

Cllr. Warne suggested that Cllr. Kemp could email the NDP steering group about housing. Richard Eastham is meet with N.W and T.K 29th September to discuss housing.

5. Hawkhurst NDP:

Cllr. Warne reported we have one copy of the Hawkhurst NDP in The Weald Information Centre for the group to read through. Deputy Clerk to send the details of where to find it on the TWBC website and to make comments. The deadline is 4th September.

6. Public Engagement:

A discussion was had around Sissinghurst Fete and support needed for the NDP stand. The group discussed the idea of street champions asking friends to assist promoting the NDP and encouraging the completion of the questionnaire. T.W suggested approaching up to 5 neighbours or friends asking them to complete the questionnaire and encouraging them to get a friend or neighbour to do the same.

7. Publicity:

Cllr. Clifford mentioned having a detailed article in the Parish Cake magazine listing who is on the Steering Group and providing pictures so residents know who to approach.

L.D will look into quotes for further publicity materials for the event in November. Goudhurst NDP advertising was discussed as being highly effective and to consider their approach. T.W will speak with Goudhurst NDP about their boards.

8. TWBC:

Liaison: Cllr. Warne and Cllr. Kemp met with Marie Bolton, Case Officer and David Scully Bio – diversity officer from TWBC with reference to Brick Kiln Farm. Persimmon are close to re-submitting their plan. They now have decided an acceptable access point. L.D was communicating with Persimmon with regards to the option of going with a roundabout or priority junction. L.D has asked that the residents at Orchard Way would like to see the plan once it was out in the public domain. Negotiations are ongoing and it is being highlighted that they engage with the NDP.

J.B mentioned that KCC are consulting on PROW and green access routes in the County. He encouraged all members and residents to respond. J.B will send the details to the Clerks & group for distribution to 'Be in the Know'.

Next meeting Monday 25th September, 7pm.