

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CRANBROOK & SISSINGHURST
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 22nd
MAY 2017.

PRESENT: Cllr. Warne (in the Chair), Annie Hatcher, Lee Hatcher, Jeremy Boxall, Liz Daley, Annie Hopper, Matthew Warne, Cllr. Cook, Cllr. Hartley, Cllr. Kemp, Cllr. Fletcher, Cllr. Veitch, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Bunyan, John Bancroft, Nem Goodman, Tally Wade, Peter Mellor.

APOLOGIES: June Bell

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.

1. Election of Vice Chair:

Cllr. Warne proposed the following Cllrs. as Vice Chair of the NDP Steering Group. Cllr. Tim Kemp for Cranbrook and Cllr. John Smith for Sissinghurst. This was seconded by Liz Daley and agreed.

2. 3 Day Design Forum:

Emerging Policy Areas –

Cllr. Warne reported back to the Steering Group the emerging draft policy areas that have arisen from the 3 Day Design Forum so far. The following areas are –

- Sissinghurst – Identify and protect a series of green spaces within the settlement, Protect & enhance core uses around The Street. Preserve green approaches to the Village from East and West along A262. Link up green spaces to the wider area. Traffic calming and new street designs in the Village centre to reduce congestion, reduce speeds, improve the environment. Safeguard land for a school expansion site to the north of the existing school site. Designate land at corner of Frittenden Road & Common Road for self – build with an agreed layout and design code. Detailed design requirement for land East of Common Road. Allocate land to the rear of St George’s hall for lifetime homes. Land at Collins Farm allocated for live/work business units together with conversion of existing buildings. To include new access to the Milk House. Q: Does land East of Mill Lane have potential for 3 or 4 units? How can these be best delivered.
- Cranbrook – Protect & enhance the core area of shops & services. Enhance the night time economy of the Town Centre, Support the cultural offer of the Town Centre. The ageing population. “Town in the trees” – Tree Planting Policy.
- Landscape – Preserve the green gap between Sissinghurst & Cranbrook. Policy to protect & enhance sports & recreation provision across the Parish. Policy to designate green spaces for protection. Policy for protection of rural areas. Other?
- Access & Movement - Develop stronger walking & cycle links between Cranbrook & Sissinghurst. Car parking strategy for Cranbrook. Review speed limits across the Parish. Policy for protection of rural lanes & twittens. Review of pavement widths, uneven surfaces & opportunity for street cafes & street life.
- Heritage – Restoration of the Providence Chapel for community use. Protection & enhancement of the Cranbrook Conservation area. Protection & Enhancement of the Sissinghurst Conservation area. General conversion & enhancement policy for Heritage buildings. Q: Do you need a specific policy for Union Mill?

- Community Infrastructure – Allocate land for a series of community facilities across the Parish? Or allocate a single community hub? Policy to support rugby clubhouse redevelopment on site. Policy to support investment into the High Weald Sports Centre. Policy to support investment in High Weald Academy. Restoration of the Providence Chapel for community use.
- General or Parish Wide – Energy generation. Food production. Agricultural diversification. Flooding & protection of water courses. Essential infrastructure.

Following an observation from Cllr. Fletcher, Cllr. Matt Hartley declared his interest as the owner of Providence Chapel.

Cllr. Fletcher suggested having the statutory bodies listed in the draft policy so the Steering Group and Parishioners were aware of what areas Local Authorities look after, for example cycle paths, lights & roads.

Filling In The Gaps –

Cllr. Warne felt that there are gaps in the emerging draft policy for example design code/layout for future housing developments. Cllr. Warne will send the document to Tally Wade for it to be shared with the Steering Group. Cllr. Warne recommended the Steering Group work through the draft policies making comments. This can then be sent to Richard Eastman from Fera to compile.

Feria report –

Richard Eastman informed Cllr. Warne that the interim report from the Design Forum would be ready by the end of June. Cllr. Warne will get a deadline from Richard for the submission of comments required from the Steering Group.

A discussion was had around the number of policy statements that will come out of the NDP. There could be up to 12 which could be reduced to 8 or 9 policies, as some would be prioritised.

3. Public Education & Engagement:

Website/Parish Cake –

Tally Wade reported that the video from the NDP 3 Day Design Forum will be uploaded on to the NDP website.

Cllr. Warne reported that an article will be going out in the July edition of the Parish Cake about the NDP. This will contain a link of how to view the video from the 3 Day Design Forum. Cllr. Cook also suggested when a housing needs survey needs to be completed that this could go into the Parish Cake to ensure this reaches every household in the Parish.

Roadshows –

Cllr. Warne reported that Richard Eastman will design the necessary posters for the upcoming events the NDP are attending. The upcoming events are ‘Cranbrook Goes Nuts in May’, 28th and 29th May and Cranbrook Family Fun day on Saturday 10th June. A discussion was had around other events that the NDP could look at in Sissinghurst. Cllr. Smith will look into this and report back. Cllr. Warne asked for any volunteers to help the ‘Cranbrook Goes Nut in May’ stall.

Cllr. Warne proposed to purchase 2 x pop up banners and 4 x roadshow posters from the allocated publicity budget. This was seconded by Annie Hatcher and agreed. Tally Wade will discuss the design and layout with Richard Eastman.

Liz Daley reported that a local GP would like a talk on the NDP. The Committee also considered setting up stands as discussed at previous meetings in Weald Sports Centre and the local schools.

Cllr. Warne reported that since the last meeting she had made contact with Dulwich Preparatory School and Colliers Green Primary, however was still waiting to hear back from High Weald Academy.

At the upcoming events a discussion was had around ways to engage Parishioners to obtain the evidence needed for FERIA to include in their report. Nem Goodman suggested placing information in the book bags at Cranbrook Primary School as a way of reaching local Parishioners and getting their views on the NDP.

It was suggested that the video link of the 3 Day Design Forum was sent round to 'Be in the Know'. The Clerks agreed to send the link out.

Both Tally Wade and Liz Daley will sort out a format and content to help with the evidence gathering at the forthcoming roadshows.

It was decided to devise a clear timetable of upcoming events the Steering Group will attend and a list who can assist with the running of the stands.

4. TWBC:

Cllr. Warne and Cllr. Kemp updated the Steering Group on the recent meeting with TWBC, Crane Valley Land Trust and NDP. The people present at this meeting were Cllr. Warne, Cllr. Kemp, Richard Eastman, Kelvin Hinton, Debbie Maltby and Mark Stephenson. The meeting discussed how the NDP can complement the new Local Plan by providing locally-specific policies alongside their strategic ones. There is a TWBC consultation currently taking place with regards to the Local Plan, which Parishioners are encouraged to respond to. Cllr. Smith felt that TWBC should write us a letter confirming the numbers of future housing to be built in the area.

A discussion on the NDP should have an input around the future development was had. It was agreed that the NDP policies need to be robust with regards to layout, design and architecture for future housing developments in order to have an impact.

Cllr. Warne reported to the Steering Group that herself along with Cllr. Bunyan will form a response to TWBC with regards to the Local Plan – issues and options consultation. Cllr. Warne welcomed any comments to be sent to her from the Steering Group members to be included into this.

Cllr. Warne did ask for support from the Steering Group with the response for Green Spaces Plan that is due in by 1st July.

Date of next meeting: Monday 26th June 7pm