

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CRANBROOK & SISSINGHURST
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 25th
SEPTEMBER 2017.

PRESENT: Cllr. Warne (N.W - in the Chair), Cllrs. Cook (D.C), Fletcher (K.F), Hartley (M.H), Swann (B.S) & Veitch (B.V), 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: Cllrs. Clifford, Smith, Kemp & 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. Grant Application:

Cllr. Warne was pleased to report that the application submitted for £9,000 had been successful, subject to our confirming acceptance of the terms and conditions. In response to Cllr. Fletcher she confirmed that the Parish Council would be the direct recipient of the money.

Cllr. Warne advised a possible further £6000 may be available for technical support if we were to consider undertaking our own site allocation assessments as this would classify us as a complex parish. She would be meeting with Richard Eastman and Cllrs. Veitch, Kemp and Bunyan to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of undertaking this task. Members agreed knowledge of the process was essential to ascertain if we had sufficient skills to complete this to a standard acceptable by TWBC. Clarification on the processes would be sought from Kelvin Hinton. A list would need to be drawn up of potential sites and a mapping exercise undertaken. Cllr. Hartley described the mapping process which involved data gathering and the plotting of the data on drawings. His offer to create the drawings from the data collated was gratefully accepted.

2. Visit from Richard Eastham:

Cllr. Warne advised that Richard Eastham would make himself available in the Council Chamber to the task group leaders from 9.30am on Friday 29th September.

3. Task Groups feedback:

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

T.W reported on the questionnaire responses received to date and the priorities that were being identified as the most important. She did state that although a policy area may be classified as a priority it did not mean that the person was in support of it, just that it was important to them. Several suggestions had been put forward for policies people believed were missing from those already identified, T.W would circulate these to the group. She also asked for suggestions on how best to circulate the data already collated. J.B raised the issue of how the data should be interpreted, N.W suggested R.E should be able to advise on this. Members agreed there was no point in having policies that were not deliverable or that were already covered under national legislation.

The NDP had secured a stall at the forthcoming Apple Fair to further engage with parishioners.

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

M.H reported that no formal meeting had taken place as yet but T.K expected to meet with R.E on Friday. He referred to the Kent Design Guide which is statutory planning guidance and covers most principles behind domestic projects which are taken as material considerations when planning applications are decided.

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

L.H reported that the group had focused mostly on the business side of things and had visited some of the larger employers. They have received about fifteen responses from the Enterprise Questionnaire to date. Contact has been made with Royal Mail but no response has yet been received. K.F had spoken to some of the older farmers whose children would like to follow them into the business but had been prevented because of restrictions on tenure and not being able to build another dwelling on the land.

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

D.C reported that he had spoken to Cranbrook School and would schedule visits to the other schools in the area, now term time is fully underway. B.V stated she had an outstanding action to meet with the Heads of all the schools, in her role as Chairman of the Parish Council and was happy to raise the NDP on her visits.

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

N.W reported that M.W had met with a group in Colliers Green about obtaining superfast broadband in some of the more remote areas of the parish. It was hoped that if successful it could be used as a template for other areas.

Task Group F – Public WCs – D.C & B.V

B.V updated the group that TWBC had arranged to close the ladies and gents toilets with steel security shutters but were in the process of refurbishing the disabled toilet as a single use unisex toilet, which it was hoped, would be ready for use the first week in October. Discussions to build a new block close to the coach park have been ruled out because of cost. B.V had approached the Co Op to see if they would be prepared to incorporate public toilets in their planned refurbishment of the store but is yet to receive a definitive answer.

Task Group H – Heritage – Annie Hatcher A.HA & A.H (CCAAC)

A.HA referred to the notes she had circulated on the rationales and policy suggestions from Hilary Hosford which had been approved by R.E. She also mentioned the process involved in obtaining brown tourist signs. Coach parking facilities were mentioned, B.V updated the group on the various discussions that had taken place historically. The group agreed that a design policy for shop fronts was desirable.

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

M.H was prepared to state that the C.V.L.T. were interested in purchasing the Providence Chapel however discussions were ongoing and any further information on their intentions should come from them.

Task Group L – Landscape – M.H & N.W

Sally Marsh – High Weald AONB had suggested some additional policies that she felt were missing. It was agreed that national policies already exist to cover much of retaining our landscape for sustainable agriculture. D.C suggested that the NFU might be able to offer some guidance. The Group is working on evidence gathering.

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

It was hoped a meeting would be organised shortly for this group.

Task Group S – Sissinghurst – Brian Clifford (B.C) J.B, J.S.

J.B advised on the application for 9 dwellings on the land at the rear of the Institute.

4. Publicity:

L.D tabled quotes she had obtained for posters and banners for the November events. N.W advised that £1000 of the grant monies applied for had been ring fenced for publicity and advertising of the forthcoming events. Discussions followed on where best to site the banners and posters. The group agreed that Goudhurst had been very effective in promoting their NDP events.

N.W had organised a stall at the Apple Fair to promote the NDP and to advise parishioners of the next steps. M.H, L.H, A.HA and A.H offered to help at the event.

5. Housing:

The need to work closely with TWBC on achieving the numbers of housing the parish would be expected to accommodate was agreed.

6. Brick Kiln Farm:

Liz Daley and Annie Hopper declared an interest in the following item as members of the Brick Kiln Action Group.

L.D reported that the access plans to the site had passed a KCC safety audit, however in subsequent meetings with the developer the action group had managed to persuade them that the current plan would be unworkable and would not allow safe access or egress of HGV's to properties in Orchard Way. The developer has agreed to consider redesigning the access leaving Orchard Way as it is.

It was agreed that the current application gives little or no thought to affordable housing element for the young or older generations. The Parish Council have recommended refusal of the application on various grounds.

Next meeting Monday 23rd October, 7pm.