

Cranbrook & Sissinghurst NDP

Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting 22nd October 2018

Present: Nancy Warne (NW – in the Chair), Matt Warne (MW), David Cook (DC), Annie Hopper (AH), June Bell (JBe), Marion Cranmer (MC), Kim Fletcher (KF), John Smith (JS), Nem Goodman (NG), Matt Hartley (MH), Tim Kemp (TK)

Apologies: Lee Hatcher (LH), Liz Daley (LD), Jeremy Boxall (JBo), Bridget Veitch (BV), Tally Wade (TW)

Declaration of Interests: Matt Warne and Tim Kemp advised of a personal interest as members of the CVLT Group.

1. Westminster Briefing Neighbourhood Planning Policy & Practice Conference held on 13.9.18 – Chairman's Report:

The Chairman gave a brief synopsis of the event and requested that the Deputy Clerk download details of all the presentations given which would be circulated to members.

2. TWBC/KCC Liaison:

Site Allocation – The Chairman reported that she had not spoken to Stephen Baughan recently, however she was aware that TWBC have expressed a preference to undertake the site allocations as part of their Local Plan, as a collaborative process with the NDP group as previously discussed. Lengthy discussion then took place on the pros and cons on TWBC/NDP undertaking the site allocations. It was agreed by all present that in the light of no draft MoU or notes from the May workshops being forthcoming from TWBC after 6 months of waiting that John Smith in consultation with the Chairman compiles a MoU on behalf of the NDP Steering Group which would be circulated to members prior to being forwarded to TWBC. This would state that the NDP would like to proceed with those allocations agreed at the May workshops. The sites where there was a differing view would need discussion on how to come to a joint decision sometime in the future.

BKF S106 – The Chairman notified the group that Persimmon had not signed the S106 agreement. A meeting with Sarah Lewis from TWBC Housing Needs Department and Mark Wade CVLT had taken place regarding the CVLT taking on the affordable element at the BKF Site and TWBC had been very supportive of this.

Highways – The Chairman reported that unfortunately this meeting had been cancelled, but she would reschedule. This was to gain greater understanding of how site assessments are considered with respect to highways and how the holistic impact of development is measured. Members to attend Chairman, LD, JBo, AH, BV and to invite Borough and County Councillor Sean Holden

3. Housing Needs Survey:

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact AECOM as the Housing Needs Survey technical support had been completed but had not yet been received.

4. Policy Development:

- Regulation 14 Draft – Due to the lack of progress on the allocations question NW reported that the first full draft of the plan would not be ready by the autumn as she had hoped.

- Policy Development: Advice received from Claire Tester, High Weald AONB Unit and Richard Eastham, FERIA Urbanism means that further work is required on the Landscape policies with respect to Green Gaps and Green Spaces. It was agreed to hold a Landscape Working Group meeting to be arranged by the Chairman and focus on these. JB reported that she and AH had gone through the Heritage Policy and had created a spreadsheet of omissions in the summary document which would be forwarded to the Chairman. Richard Eastham of FERIA Urbanism was looking at some of the policies to offer his advice. NW also proposed to amalgamate some policies to create a Cranbrook Town Centre policy which was supported by the group.

5. Public Engagement:

Colliers Green – The Chairman had been invited to attend a school governors meeting to brief them on the NDP. Unfortunately as she was not able to attend and Tim Kemp had attended and given a perspective on possible development from the CVLT's view. Since this time some major concerns from local residents have surfaced so members agreed that the Chairman and JS should attend the school in the near future with a view to setting up an information session for the school and local residents. A briefing note for Governors of Colliers Green C of E Primary School and local residents has been produced and will be circulated.

Hartley – It was agreed that NW would contact the coffee shop at Hartley asking if they would be willing to act as a venue for a similar engagement event for local residents there too. The Chairman proposed that a sum of up to £400 be used to advertise forthcoming events, produce banners and leaflets to be circulated this was seconded by JS and agreed.

Website – Update of the website was discussed and it was agreed that a Frequently Asked Questions page could also be included. NW to ask TW to assist.

6. Stakeholder Engagement:

CCAAC – It was agreed that if CCAAC wanted to make representations on a particular planning application they were able to do this via the normal channels and not through NDP.

CVLT – It was noted that there had been no recent engagement with the CVLT. It was agreed that the NDP/Parish Council would want to engage with them, but the details of CVLT proposed developments should be treated as they have with other developers.

CPRE – Lady Elizabeth Aikenhead had written giving their concern regarding the policy of density and green gaps between settlements which had been noted.

High Weald AONB – Already taken on board their comments and would be revisiting landscapes and biodiversity policy.

Sissinghurst Castle – They were keen to be kept informed on anything which would impact the estate and were particularly looking at biodiversity.

Housing Solutions – Contact had been made by Mr A Briley regarding a site which had already been put forward in the call for sites for a business use. It was agreed that the group was not in a position to make any decision at the present time.

Berkeley Homes – Turnden Hartley Road the Parish Council recommended refusal for this planning application at a recent meeting.

Countryside – Highway access needed to be clarified before any further action can take place.

7. Item for Information:

Defra Questionnaire – Landscape Review consultation: JBe requested that this be circulated to members which was agreed.

Dark Skies Monitoring – MC reported that she had submitted all the dark skies readings undertaken earlier in the year to Sam Nicholas at the High Weald AONB Unit. Sam had now sent her the map for the parish showing the results which were very interesting and can be used to support various policies. She will forward to all.