

EASAT HOATHLY WITH HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on March 14 2018

- 1. Apologies:** David Burroughs
- 2. Present:** Diane Knill (Chair), Tony Pope, Sue Cole, Jonathan Ritchie, John Deane, Peter Brooke, Jonathan Walker, Gill Kennedy, Gina Cuthbertson, Victoria Crick.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting of February 14 2018.** These were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.
- 4. Design Forum:** March 7/8 2018.

4.1 Feedback; The overall feedback from the Design Forum had been good. Attendances on both days were very good (85 March 7, over 90 March 8) and members of the public who had attended had expressed interest and enthusiasm for the Neighbourhood Plan. The presentation at the end of the evening by Richard Eastham (Feria) had been excellent and had covered not only what was accomplished to date but the amount of work that was required to complete the plan and submit it to WDC.

4.2 Debriefing;

4.2.a. Overall Comments: The overall level of the presentations was high and encompassed a variety of recommendations for the NP. The group of children from the Village Primary School had been particularly effective. Concern was expressed that the school had not taken/was not taking a more active part in creating the NP. This was partly due to lack of enthusiasm by the current headmaster and poor communication with the school. The presentation had in fact been instigated by Gill Kennedy (SG Member) and Lesley Wiggan (Governor at the school) and parents of the children. It was agreed that more effective lines of communication with the school should be established **Action: Gill Kennedy.** It would be more difficult to establish contact with secondary age young people in EH & H since they went to many different secondary schools.

4.2.b. Four developers had been present at the Forum and had made presentations. They also joined in the discussion groups and were able to discuss issues face to face with members of the public.

4.2.c. Site visits to EH and H occurred on both afternoons and addressed possible sites where development could take place. It was emphasised throughout to the developers that there was opposition to development in EH and H on a large scale and that future development should be limited to relatively small numbers on sites (30 -40). In the settlement hierarchy for Wealden, EH was represented as a small rural village where no development was envisaged by WDC. However past experience had shown that WDC shifted goalposts and that the present zero allocation which relied on emissions of nitrous oxide in Ashdown Forest was unlikely to be upheld in the future.

It was also emphasised that any future housing in EH and H should be 2/3 bedroom properties and contain a proportion of Affordable Housing. Young people found it impossible to obtain housing in the villages where they grew up.

4.2.d. Feria had agreed to create a link to their web site for the NP for EH&H as the website of the Parish Council was (a) not functioning at all (**Action Chair**) and (b) the Parish Council had not yet appointed a new Webmaster. It was agreed that the lack of a website where information re the NP could be held was a serious matter. It was agreed that the link to the Feria website should be implemented a.s.a.p. **Chair to Action.**

4.2.e. Jonathan Walker agreed to create a U tube account so that the video made at the Design Forum could be available to the public. Concern was expressed re the children who gave the presentation being seen via this video. This might contravene the Data Protection Act. The Chair agreed to take advice from SALC re this matter. **Chair to Action.**

Gill Kennedy also offered to contact the parents for permission to have the children seen on the video. **Gill Kennedy to action.**

4.2.f. The Chair confirmed that the report on the Design Forum would be produced by Feria within 4 – 6 weeks. This report would also indicate the way forward.

4.2.g. Clarification was sought re the position of non Parish Council members of the Steering Group as to whether they would be covered by the Parish Councils data protection. **Chair to action.**

4.2.h. Gill Kennedy would forward details of training re the Data Protection Act and its implications for small organisations. **Action Gill Kennedy.**

4.3. WDC Guide to Neighbourhood Planning (Draft for Comment)

4.3.a. The Chair had circulated copies of the document which she had received from WDC. The Chair asked for comments on the document to be sent to her by **April 10 at the latest.**

4.3.b. A Meeting had been arranged with WDC for April 12 at 2:00 pm at the Council Offices in Hailsham. The following agreed to accompany the Chair to the meeting: Jonathan Walker, Jonathan Ritchie, Chris Magness (Chair Planning, EHwH PC).

4.3.c. This Meeting had been arranged via our District Councillor, David Watts. The Chair had raised her concerns with Councillor Watts re the lack of support which the NP was receiving from WDC. Although they had been invited to attend both the Visioning Event and the Design Forum they were not present and had not replied to their invitations indicating if they would be present or not. Councillor Watts had therefore contacted Kelly Sharp (Community Relations at WDC) to establish contact with WDC and ascertain what assistance they were giving Parishes who were creating a NP.

4.4. Financing the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.4.a. It was agreed that subject to further discussions and an estimate of the costs from Feria, consideration would be given re appointing Feria to continue to work with EHwH S.G. towards the final NP

4.4.b. Enquiries had been made by the Chair towards the cost of appointing Feria to continue (Tasks 7 – 16) to the final submission of the NP to WDC. Feria had replied that until the Design Forum had been held and they had submitted their report they were unable to give a reliable assessment of costs.

4.4.c The Chair confirmed that Locality UK had received a further tranche of funding from Central Government towards costs of Neighbourhood Plans.

4.4.d. It was agreed that an application for further funding from Locality UK should proceed in the next few months. **Chair to action.**

4.4.e The Chair confirmed that the funds in hand (Locality grant+ funds from the PC) had been overspent and that funding of future stages of the NP was critical. The chair also confirmed that £12 500 had been set aside in the PC's earmarked reserves for the NP in the financial year 2018-2019.

4.4f. Further funding from the PC could be provided from the 2019-2020 precept. It might prove necessary to raise the precept considerably to cover future costs of the NP. This was a matter for discussion with the Parish Council.

4.4 g. A suggestion by the Chair that residents might be approached for contributions towards the funding of the NP was deferred for consideration. Jonathan Walker suggested that it could be useful to hold events (/? Open garden etc.) where funds could be raised. Such events would raise the profile of the NP and keep it within the public domain. This would be considered further at future meetings.

4.5. Areas of Responsibility

4.5. a. The summing up of the Design Forum by Richard Eastham had indicated the considerable amount of work that was necessary to complete the NP

4.5.b. Richard Eastham had also indicated that it would take 12 -18 months from now until completion.

4.5.c. The Chair said that we were unlikely to achieve this target without members of the SG undertaking more responsibility in certain areas. The Chair asked members of the SG to consider, over the next month, to consider what areas they felt they could undertake (with the assistance of others who need not necessarily be members of the SG) and report their decisions at the next meeting of the SG.

4.5.d. Although Working Parties had been drawn up Feria had recommended that they should not be implemented until after the Design Forum. Once the report from Feria had been submitted this should provide a clearer pathway of how to proceed and working groups etc. would have to be rethought and possibly abolished. New Steering Group members might also need to be recruited.

4.5.e. The Chair said that the volume of work (particularly leading up to the Visioning and Design events) had been considerable and had been a heavier commitment than she was prepared to offer in the future. The Chair therefore intimated that she would be standing down as Chair in September.

5. Dates of Future Meetings.

Thursday April 12 2018

Thursday May 10

Thursday June 14

Wednesday July 25

August: unless essential there will be no meeting in August

Thursday September 13

All meetings begin at 7:00 pm and are held at the Kings Head, East Hoathly.

Diane Knill
Chair, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Feria have since confirmed that they hope to shortly establish a link on their web site for our NP.

Richard Eastham also confirmed that he will attend the meeting with WDC on April 12.