

**MINUTES OF HASLEMERE VISION STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD AT HASLEMERE TOWN HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15 June 2016**

**1. Attendance and Apologies: Stewart Brown (Chairman)\*, David Simmons\*, Jonny Fry\*, John Moxon\*, Diana Vartan\*, Crawford Christie (A), Liz Burton (A), Cyndy Lancaster (A), Peter Isherwood (A), Lesley Banfield (A), Stephen Mulliner (A), Simon Drake (A), Ged Hall (A), Robert Silk (A), Vicki Purewal (A), Matthew Bowcock (A), Simona Teresi (Secretary)\*.**  
\*=Present (A) = Apologies

The Chairman offered congratulations on everyone's behalf to LBU on the recent arrival of baby James, and although LBU would not be attending meetings for a while she was still very much involved in her editorial tasks.

**2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 April 2016 were approved.**

**3. Matters Arising:** most would be covered in the points below, except:

- Use of the Haslemere Station Shop as a promotion space - CC has been fully occupied with policy writing but SB would remind him about providing consultation results slides/ video.
- AOB: SB will be consulting with HTC on communications/ working relationship.

**4. Progress and future on completing Policy Drafting:**

SB reported that with LBU off and CC mostly off except when conducting workshops, there has been little opportunity for the policy groups to get together, though work is progressing:

- Housing: CC & SM are now in a position to produce a credible suite of Housing policies for HTC & WBC, following the recent Housing workshops, also attended by Malcolm Carter of HTC. The trade-off between employment and housing was a major issue in the 2 workshops. The feedback from those is now being interpreted.

- Environment: Philippa Guest has taken this on and made much progress, drawing on her considerable external expertise as Consultant in Agricultural Science for many years - now working on one last policy and getting external input on Dark Skies.

- Employment: in view of employment/ density trade-off, this was pending on formulation of Housing policies before work could be finalised.

- Transport: this is a difficult and highly sensitive area that needs to be looked at seriously by Town Councillors to understand what is being proposed and why. One further Transport workshop needs to be planned, with any willing TCs as well as anyone from the other working groups, and an external expert to advise what can and can't be said and why – possibly from WBC. **Action: SB** to ask eg. Mathew Mainwaring. **DS** to consult with Steven Bennett & Richard Workman and to send out mails to fix a date in July for the Transport workshop.

The meeting was assured that once the complete suite of policy proposals are drafted the SG will have the chance to comment on and approve them before they are formally submitted to HTC. There will then one final public consultation online and drop-in events over six weeks before finally going to WBC and an external inspector taking a national perspective.

- JM reminded the meeting that the NP consisted of 2 halves - (1) Policy and (2) Aspirations, and that the Transport workshop should have a wider scope and look at the aspirational part as well, identifying potential future projects on transport and parking, and all agreed.

- JM also brought up the fact that there is a lot of inactive property in Haslemere, and asked to what extent issues such as the Gibbs Trust should be addressed when looking at Housing sites. After some discussion it was agreed that an informal approach to the Gibbs Trust should be made regarding its role in the development of the area. **Action: JM**

**5. Update on Plan drafting:** SB reported that:

- LBU was progressing this and a first draft was expected by end July for feedback from SG and HTC.

- LBU and SB had agreed that SB would produce a first draft of the section that sets out projects that, while not issues of planning policy, had nevertheless been shown in public consultations to be representational of people's aspirations for the area. **Action: SB** to ask each policy drafting group to identify related projects for inclusion.

#### **6. Arrangement for Public Meeting on 29 June 2016 re. the Formation of a Community Land Trust:**

- This had been arranged following agreement at the last SG meeting, and advertised widely with posters around the town, articles in the Herald and Messenger, as well as emails sent to some 450 HV contacts and to members of various other voluntary organisations in the town.
- Although HV cannot take this on until the NP is done, a CLT initiative can still be progressed in the meantime by volunteers - some 60 people having indicated their willingness to help in the Housing Consultation survey.
- It is hoped there will be a good turn out and that an outcome of the meeting will be a list of half a dozen or so volunteers willing to form a Steering Group to progress/ lead this initiative.
- So far Alistair Bayliss has been progressing this, putting in an application to become members of the National CLT Network. A letter has been received confirming success of the application for Stage 1 which entitles HV to £500 worth of technical support with a special adviser. An external speaker has also been provided for the 29 June Meeting.
- HTC have been informed and are supportive of this initiative to establish a CLT.

#### **7. Proposed Joint Meeting with HTC:**

- SB had discussed the relationship between HTC and HV with MO, when she was still mayor. Although most councillors were well disposed towards HV, there was a strain of doubt regarding the value of spending more time and money on completing the NP, especially in the absence of a Waverley Local Plan. There was also concern about the scope of the NP. MO had proposed a meeting between 6 members of HTC and HV respectively, with an independent expert on Neighbourhood Planning as Chair, to face these issues head on and clarify and agree the final scope of the NP.
- SB reported the meeting had been fixed for 4 August 2016, and Tony Burton had agreed to Chair. The latter was well informed and connected and had advised all over the country on the issues of NP and as an independent inspector. He had run the Policy Drafting Workshop organised by Locality in 2015 that SB had attended and SB had been impressed by his clear thinking on what a NP can and can't do.
- SB said CC, SM and SB would attend, and it would also be logical for the Chairmen of the Policy writing groups to be there, ie. JM, DS and PG. JF proposed that one or two other HV directors should also be present if possible. This was agreed. **Action: SB** to finalise who will attend.
- The Town Hall had confirmed that new mayor of Haslemere, Sahran Abeysundara, would attend as would Melanie Odell, David Round, Malcolm Carter, Ged Hall and Simon Drake

**8. Hindhead and Beacon Hill Consultation Update:** The consultation had been completed and LBU would now be inputting the data which CC would then process.

**9. AOB:** JF raised the question of transparency, and where would be the appropriate place to provide visibility of any moneys spent by HV. It was agreed that as well as putting the Annual Accounts on the website, a separate spreadsheet should be published there giving a list of any payments made. **Action JF** to liaise with Doug Chandler,

**10. Date of Next Meeting: To be confirmed!**

Meeting ended at 9.30 pm.