

**MINUTES OF HASLEMERE VISION STEERING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT HASLEMERE TOWN HALL ON WEDNESDAY 19th October 2016**

- 1. Attendance and Apologies: Stewart Brown (Chairman)*, Crawford Christie*, Liz Burton *, David Simmons*, John Moxon, Diana Vartan*, Peter Isherwood*, Melanie Odell*, Cyndy Lancaster (A), Lesley Banfield (A), Stephen Mulliner (A), Robert Silk (A), Jonny Fry (A), Vicki Purewal (A), Matthew Bowcock (A), Libby Piper (A), Simona Teresi (Secretary)*.**

*=Present (A) = Apologies

- 2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 2016 were approved.**

3. Matters Arising:

- Item 4. §3: JM reported that no other policies had been identified in other Neighbourhood Plans that might be included for greater protection of land used for employment. He had got in touch with the Chamber of Trade, as requested, and a meeting has been arranged for next week.

4. Update on outcome of the detailed review of the Housing and related environmental policies by the HTC Working Party and the HV Policy Drafting group and timetable for completion of policy review:

- MO reported on the first joint review of the Housing policies and confirmed that these would shortly be fed back to HV with any amendments proposed by the HTC Working Party. MO felt that it had been a very constructive session. CC concurred and suggested that it was important that the HV drafting group saw the proposed amendments before any further meeting. It was hoped that only one further meeting would be necessary to reach agreement on the housing policies and that only 2 to, possibly 3, further meetings should then be required to reconsider all the other policies except Housing.

It was agreed that we should seek to get a provisional OK from Council at their meeting on November 22nd so that we could then widen the consultation to other local organisations and WBC, for informal review by them, prior to seeking a final approval at the January HTC meeting.

5. Next steps in plan drafting and future timetable:

- LBU reported that the process of going through the NP, trying to cut it down to provide a summary of the strategy and policy proposals that would capture the interest of the general public whilst adequately informing them, was ongoing but she aimed to circulate a fleshed out document by the end of October deadline. She suggested that a letter from the Mayor would now replace the introduction.

- Outstanding actions:

(a) **Action: SB** to activate data collection and collation process – will send emails asap.

(b) **Action: SB** to circulate sustainability grid to policy group members with request to complete the chart for all policies.

(c) **Action LBU** to circulate the draft NP by October 31st.

6. Discussion of the role of Haslemere Vision after the plan has been completed:

- SB said the drafting of the NP would, hopefully, be completed by March 2017, at which point, as he had already indicated, he would step down as Chairman. He suggested the group should start giving some thought as to what, if any, role HV should have once the plan was completed. The appointment of a suitable new Chairman would depend on HV's role. Would there just be a need for a 6 to 12 months replacement to see through the end of the Plan process or would we be recruiting someone for a continuing, proactive role?

- MO said that it might be better for her not to join in this early stage of the discussion. She confirmed that HTC recognised HV's right to continue to operate as an independent community organisation and, she was sure, it would be open to working with HV in future on a case by case basis. However, she felt that HV SG members should have the opportunity to discuss HV's future independently of HTC and therefore asked to be excused at this point. This was agreed.

In an open discussion the following further points were made:

- SB said that it had been envisioned from the start that HV might well continue to operate, as a vehicle to follow up on some of the aspirations of the NP, after the plan had been completed. One obvious role might have been HV becoming a Community Land Trust, but having set up the separate CLT Steering Group led by Paul Bagshaw the CLT was likely to have emerged as a separate entity March 2017.
- JM suggested an umbrella organisation keeping an overview on the totality of what happens in the town, but it was suggested that this might be too broad and clash with HTC's role.
- CC said that, with no clear active purpose (such as the NP), there was a danger of lack of focus/delivery. HV could become an adjunct of the CLT or an Umbrella Organisation for a series of action groups pursuing specific projects, identified in the NP, such as the Centre of Town development brief.
- Consideration was given to proposing that HV merge with the Haslemere Society as there was clear overlap between the activities of the two organisations. However, it was felt the two roles were very different: HS's agenda is to preserve what is already there, and it does a very good job of conservation, policing applications etc. On the other hand, HV's agenda should be that of an agent for change in "the light of the NP".

Conclusion: it was agreed that a separate meeting/ workshop should be called to discuss these issues, attended by a wider group of HV's most active volunteers and invited representatives other community organisations/societies. **Action:** SB to consult on who should be invited and arrange the setting up of the meeting.

7. AOB:

- before leaving the meeting, MO reminded the group that the HV budget for next year would be needed in early November as HTC Budget working group starts tomorrow
- SB enquired what stage had been reached on the Beacon Hill Survey. LBU said that the results were with Malcolm Carter. **Action: PI & LBU** to liaise with MC regarding next steps.

8. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th November at 8.00pm at the Town Hall.

Meeting ended at 9.40 pm