

**MINUTES OF HASLEMERE VISION STEERING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT HASLEMERE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 10 December 2018**

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

Observing: Jolyn Culbertson

- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2018 were approved.**

- 3. Matters Arising:**

There are delays in WBC's likely completion of LPP2. Councillors Knowles and King protested about the lack of statutory consultee comment on the proposed allocated sites with particular issues for Haslemere being the water supply which suffered significantly during the past dry summer.

SM explained that the Thames Water issues in the summer were described on their website as due to pump failure and not lack of water supply. In Haslemere, water is supplied from the aquifers in the sandstone in the Sturt Farm area. Normal rainfall provides up to half of the towns supply. If there is insufficient supply water is pumped from the network.

All utility companies have now been requested to give a direct response to the consultation. SM estimates that LPP2 will not be in operation until the Summer of 2020.

As time passes more windfall permissions are being granted and the new NPPF permits the inclusion of windfall on garden land in meeting housing targets. 45-50 windfall permissions are expected this year (y/e 31/3/19) and therefore it is unlikely that all of the proposed LPP2 sites for Haslemere will be needed. Ideally the sites in AONB and AGLV will not be required. Although the additional housing that Waverley accepted from Woking may not be needed in the future, SM believes that it is very unlikely that Haslemere's target of 990 homes will be reduced as due to the numerous restrictions on land around the town Haslemere has been treated favourably in Waverley's allocation of the housing across the borough.

SM stated that the windfall development and conversions occurring in Haslemere are at least providing the smaller units required and the NP policies will further encourage the building of homes suitable for first time buyers, downsizers and affordable homes.

SB stated that now was the time to step back and look at the policies.

- 4. Update on progress of WBC Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2):**

SB reported that while LPP2 is important to the NP it will be delayed for approximately a year. The Project Leadership group met with LP and MO to discuss the strategy of delaying the NP until after LPP2 is finalised. It was determined that the problem with delaying is that more time passes without the NP policies being adopted and that more is to be gained by completing the NP and getting the policies in place so that development in the town is guided by more than just the LPP1 policies.

An additional benefit is that Haslemere Town Council will received 25% of any CIL paid once an adopted NP is in place.

If we delay issuing the NP for too long there is a risk that the consultations, which form the basis of the policies, will be out of date. Also, with elections in May 2019 there is a risk that the council working party may change. The leadership group with the support of LP and MO therefore recommend continuing on with the NP draft with the aim of adopting it once ready. The NP would not include site specific design briefs.

The timetable would be:

- Draft to HTC NP working party by 7th January
- Final draft available for full council meeting in March

SM asked if some site specific policies could be included. SB responded that we only have consultation evidence for 5 sites that are currently proposed as allocations by WBC. Also if we were to include a site policy for a site which is not subsequently allocated by WBC there is a possibility that HV would have to perform a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the site which would be costly.

The site design briefs that have been prepared will be reviewed to see if there are any matters which would not be covered by our general policies and if necessary additional policy wording added.

A group approved by a majority, completing the Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible and without site specific briefs.

SM agreed to look at the issue of the effect on the housing policies if no site specific policies are included in the NP.

5. Proposal to proceed to complete and agree the draft NP with HTC before the end of April 2019

6. Review of programme and tasks for completion of NP

7. AOB:

DM mentioned that the accounts for the year ended 5 April 2018 were ready and she would email them to the directors for approval and then to all members.

SB explained that he will step down as chairman of HV in May and that the group should identify someone else to lead HV. Consideration will need to be given to the role of HV after the NP is completed and whether it has a valuable ongoing role.

Dates for future meetings: Dates of future meetings to be sent out in due course.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm