

Haslemere Vision : Transport Group (“TG”)

Notes on meeting 9 held in Haslewey on Monday 7th April 2014 at 7:30

Present: Nikki Barton (part), Stephen Bennett, Ken Griffiths, Cyndy Lancaster, Paul Megson (part), Chloe Nash (part), David O’Brien (part), Marianne O’Brien (part), David Round, Robert Serman (part), David Simmons (part).

Apologies: Richard Workman, Stephen Mulliner **Absent:** no-one

Chairman: David Round, who also took notes of the meeting.

1. Minutes of Meeting 8 (3/3/14). They had been circulated and were approved. No matters arose.

2. Transport “Policies”. The meeting had been called solely to consider the Vision material circulated earlier the same afternoon. Two had been nominated as the “drafters” of policies for the Transport Group – Nikki Barton and Stephen Mulliner. Stephen could not attend as he was away in Hong Kong on holiday. Nikki had sent apologies but nevertheless arrived after the meeting began.

The Group had received a number of documents earlier that afternoon.

Nikki Barton arrived and declared that she did not want to discuss any parking issues and wished to concentrate on drafting policies for “accessibility”. The Chairman pointed out that parking was not on the agenda and that the Group didn’t often discuss it anyway – but the meeting should concentrate on the task in hand, to deliberate on the “policies” material first. Mrs Barton insisted on moving with a group to another room to do the “accessibility” material and 7 members thus departed.

Four remained – Chairman, Ken, Cyndy and Stephen B.

We expressed the view that a great deal of material had to be considered in a very short space of time. Nevertheless, we considered the main report – the consultation document version 5 produced by Crawford Christie – which was broadly welcomed. However, a not inconsiderable amount of the Transport Group Report had not been included. Our detailed comments have been returned to Robert Silk and the group considering this material.

The other group considering “accessibility” returned at about 9pm. Robert Serman and David Simmons remained. Nikki Barton, Chloe Nash, David O’Brien, Marianne O’Brien and Paul Megson left.

Robert Serman said that Chloe Nash would circulate later their views on accessibility.

The chairman updated Robert and David S on the response to the main consultation documents that had been formed during their absence.

3. Charter Fair David Round went on to say that he had a useful meeting with Crawford Christie and Stewart Brown concerning the charter fair, on Saturday 29th March, where there might be some representation of the Transport Groups ideas although it would not apparently be appropriate to garner views for the public in case they prejudiced later consultation. David had disagreed with this reluctance to seek public response. Further decisions, on how the Charter Fair stand would be handled, depended on finding people to prepare material on the more major aspects of the Vision such as Housing and all the general Themes that had lately been developed. He awaited more information.

However, since then he had been astonished to be copied on an email from Crawford Christie that reported that meeting in what he considered to be a highly inaccurate manner. Further detail was not for the minutes but David said he was considering resigning from the Vision – not only because of that incident, but because he fundamentally disagreed with the rush to formulate “policies” without intervening public consultation. Nothing from the Transport Group had been ventilated in public. Almost everyone present pressed David to remain as Chairman but he was adamant that he would be considering his position over the next few days.

The view was expressed that, particularly in the light of the wish, earlier in 2014, of the Steering Group to abandon the original Work Groups, it was possible that there would soon be no role for the Work Groups.

The Group reminisced over the constructive and pleasurable times it had had in producing its visionary report for Haslemere the previous November.

No further meeting was arranged.

DVR 13th April 2014