

**Minutes of Haslemere Vision Steering Group Meeting  
held at Haslewey on Wednesday, 20 November 2013 at 8pm**

**Present:** Stewart Brown (Chairman), Lesley Banfield, Matthew Bowcock, Andy Braithwaite, Douglas Chandler, Peter Isherwood, Cyndy Lancaster, John Moxon, Libby Piper, David Round, Robert Silk, David Simmons, Diana Vartan.

**Apologies:** Ken Griffiths, Kevin Grottick, Vicki Purewal.

The Chairman brought forward Item 5 for early discussion

**5. Review progress of analysis of engagement and survey feedback**

MB gave an account of the present situation. Extra help would be required if we are to present our analysis for the forthcoming workshop (Saturday 30 November).

The question was asked, how much value will we gain from this analysis at this time? It was accepted that the information should be available as soon as possible after the Saturday workshop so that the work groups could take account of the community feedback before they proceed too far with the development of their ideas. It was agreed that it was important to complete the analysis to show how HV has interpreted the mass of data now collected.

In the next questionnaire more care will be given to design of questions.

**Action: MB to complete the coding of the feedback comments and pass to Crawford Christie for analysis as soon as it is available.**

(It was noted that Matthew Bowcock then left the meeting.)

**2. Approve Minutes of last meeting, Tuesday 22 October 2013**

Two amendments were made: John Robini had not been present and Libby Piper had been present for part of the time.

**3. Matters arising**

**Terms of Reference (TOR)** SB reinstated his request for an updated version from all Groups.

**Action: DR, LB, JM and KG to send the latest version of their group's TOR to SB (without spending any more time on them at this stage) as soon as possible.**

**4. Review of progress, process stage map and plans for Workshop, 30 November.**

SB reported on meeting that he, Peter Isherwood and Stephen Mulliner had had with Matthew Ellis (ME) Chief Planning Officer for Waverley Borough Council.

ME had confirmed that, despite the withdrawal of the WBC core strategy (i.e. Part One of Local Plan), there was no legal reason why HV should not go ahead with our Neighbourhood Plan. WBC's timetable is to have a revised core strategy ready to be resubmitted to the Inspector early in April 2015. This means that it will be late 2015 and, quite possibly sometime in 2016 before the new strategy is finally approved. ME expects that they should, however, be able to give HV an idea of what the new housing numbers to be allocated to Haslemere will be by the end of summer 2014. In the meantime, WBC will give us a breakdown of how the housing numbers were allocated to the towns and villages in the previous plan and work with HV to help us develop proposals on housing that are likely to be compatible with the eventual core strategy. ME noted that it was now intended that the revised core strategy would deal with housing allocation as well as numbers.

SB noted that in a meeting he and Robert Silk had had with Liz Beth of Planning Aid, she had made the point that HV is not obliged to address housing allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that it is premature to make a decision on whether to make proposals on housing allocation and that the issue would be reviewed when the work of the Environment Group was further advanced. In further discussion it was noted that if HV can develop its proposals on housing quickly enough we may have an opportunity to influence the Core Strategy. This makes it important to complete the work on the next two phases of the stage map as soon as possible. To

do this we **must** clarify how our Groups are going to work together and make the links between the five Groups. This will be a key focus of the workshop planned for 30 November.

#### Workshop, 30 November

As a result of work by the process leadership group a revised programme for the day was circulated and SB advised that the objectives of the day were now proposed as follows:

- ~ To identify the key issues/opportunities and corresponding ideas/options that each group has identified and how they overlap with the work of other groups.
- ~ To identify actions and how the groups would work together to develop the options re each of the emerging major issues/opportunities.
- ~ To understand what a policy looks like and what can and cannot be included in the part of the plan that will go to referendum.
- ~ To understand what other factors/lenses need to be included in developing a policy.

Several further suggestions emerged from the ensuing discussion.

1. We should amend the language to be consistent with the glossary of terms.
2. Concern was expressed that it might be premature to experiment with writing policies
3. Another objective for the day should be to ensure that all present understand, and are comfortable with, the totality of the future process.
4. it was suggested that a further aim for the day should be to develop alternative overarching visions for Haslemere. It was agreed that this is vital but it will be tackled in the next phase of the process and should be completed by the end of January.

**Action: Process Leadership Group to consider these suggestions in final planning for 30 November.**

**Action: Work Group Chairs to let SB have the names of current members of their group.**

#### **6. Review role of Haslemere Vision and clarify proposed action regarding Sturt Farm, the Police Station and Wey Hill (Fairground) Car Park and "Youth Campus"**

The meeting discussed how active should HV be on these issues

##### Sturt Farm

It was agreed that HV should not express a view on Sturt Farm unless and until options have been put to the community in the next phase of consultation. There is to be a presentation from the developers to the Town Council to which representatives of HV are invited. LP confirmed that the councillors present would ask questions but could not comment. It was agreed that HV's position should be the same. It was also agreed that it would be helpful for HTC, HS and HV to keep in touch over the issue.

##### The Police Station

SB noted that Waverley had received formal notification that the property was back on the market on 5 November so any community bid would have to be submitted by 5 May 2014. The idea of a Market Place is being worked on by a sub-group set up by members of HV, but HV's ongoing role needs to be clarified. IT was agreed that this does not come under the HV remit of developing a Neighbourhood Plan, but is a separate stream of activity. This distinction needs to be made clear to those developing proposals for the site, and more widely, to avoid misunderstanding. The Process Leadership sub-group needs to consider further how best to do this. It was agreed by the meeting that HV itself should not make a bid and that, if a viable bid can be developed it should be made by a separate community enterprise set up for the purpose. It will have to seek community support as appropriate.

**Action: SB to contact James Birkett to clarify the above. PL sub-group to consider wider implications.**

##### Wey Hill (Fairground) Car Park

It was noted that there is to be a public enquiry into the WBC application to upgrade the Wey Hill (Fairground) Car Park. This is scheduled to start on 8 April 2014. It was agreed that HV should support the pressure to hold the proposed enquiry in Haslemere. It was

further agreed that, ideally, as little money as possible should be committed on the site until alternative proposals for that part of the town have been properly developed and put to the community. Opinion was divided over whether HV should press for a postponement of the enquiry (this would require WBC to withdraw their application). SB undertook to set up further dialogue with WBC over this matter.

**Action: SB to contact WBC and other interested parties and report back. SB would also contact Stephen Mulliner to establish what progress if any, had been made on a commercially viable development proposal for the site.**

**Action: The Housing and Environment Group was asked to review the development options including a brief for external planning consultants as a matter of priority and recommend a way forward at the next meeting. Action LB**

Weyhill Site - 'Youth Campus'

It was agreed that HV had no locus to intervene in the present negotiations between the current leaseholders and WBC but that we should concentrate on developing alternative futures for the site within the context of alternative futures for the area as a whole. We should also seek to clarify what options WBC are considering for the site.

**Action: The Housing and Environment Group to consider future development alternatives for the site as part of their ongoing work.**

## **7. Financial Update**

SB presented a summary of income received and of expenditure from the launch last September up to the present day (copy attached). It was noted that we have just over £8,000 cash available for future expenses.

It was noted that if we decide to appoint planning consultants to consider the options on Wey Hill we may be able to apply for funding for a feasibility study under the Community Right to Build.

**Action: SB asked LB for a report on this from the Housing and Environment Group by the next meeting.**

## **8. Any Other Business**

None

## **9. Date of next meeting**

**Tuesday, 17 December 2013** (place to be confirmed)