

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP OF HASLEMERE VISION HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2014**

**Present:** Stewart Brown (Chairman), Lesley Banfield, Liz Burton, Crawford Christie, Johnny Fry, Philippa Guest, Peter Isherwood, Cyndy Lancaster, John Moxon, Vicki Purewal, Robert Serman and Diana Vartan.

Stephen Mulliner was in attendance for the first part of Item 6: Progress reports from ODGs

1. **Apologies:** Matthew Bowcock, Penny Bradley, Robert Silk and David Simmons

2. **Introduction of new members**

Two new members of the Steering Group were introduced and welcomed to the committee. Liz Burton who will lead the drafting and editing of the Neighbourhood Plan; and Johnny Fry who has lived in the area for some time, with children at local schools, and who was attending to assess what role he might best fulfil for HV in the future. The Chairman also welcomed Phillipa Guest who was attending the meeting to report on the progress made by the Wey Hill Option Development Group.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting**

These were approved.

4. **Matters arising**

These were no matters arising that would not be covered later in the agenda

**SB to contact volunteers for candidates**

5. **Organisation**

**5.1 Steering Group Terms of Reference**

These had been circulated to all members of the SG for review and no comments had been received suggesting changes. The PLG had reviewed them and concluded that they were fit for purpose as presently drafted. It was agreed that a review of how far the SG is complying with these terms should be carried out early in the New Year.

**5.2 Membership of Haslemere Vision Ltd.**

It was noted there is a need to find a new Company Secretary and Treasurer.

**5.3 Editor and Plan Drafting Group**

Liz Burton had accepted the position of Editor.

6. **Future Process and Progress Reports**

**6.1 Timetable**

SM reported on progress by WBC following their consultation on housing numbers and the implications for our timetable. There is still considerable debate as to whether the latest proposals on housing numbers are both deliverable and sustainable but WBC is still committed to putting forward its revised proposals in March 2015. PI explained that latest proposals were to be considered at a meeting of the Council on 2 December. It was agreed that this means the earliest HV will be able to carry out the Stage 2 Consultation is probably middle/end March. After some discussion it was agreed that, in order to keep the momentum going, the ODGs should stick to the current timetable. The aim is to have the text of the Stage 2 Consultation drafted before Christmas. We will have to be prepared to amend the final text on housing when WBC publish their final proposals but it was agreed we can use the intervening period to hold a series of workshops in January/February to debate the option proposals. This would be particularly valuable for the housing proposals given the complexity and sensitivity of the issues at stake.

**6.2 Progress Reports from Option Development Groups**

CC reported on the current position. Four groups were preparing material for the second consultation.

**Housing Group 1** was looking at options for the allocation of sites within the existing settlement line for the five different categories of housing included in the current WBC proposals. This group were near to completing a first draft of their section of the consultation.

**Housing Group 2** is looking at other development possibilities including sites outside the present settlement line proposals to change present planning policies on density and infill etc. RSer advised that the group had started work with a drive around the area but were not yet in a position to put forward any options for consideration. CC urged that they get at least some initial proposals to him by 5 December.

**The Wey Hill Fairground Group** are planning to present three different options for the development of the site. Option 1 would be the WBC car park proposal; Option 2 would be a more ambitious combination of commercial, residential and community premises, with or without parking. On this option the community would be offered a menu to choose from; Option 3 would be to return the site to a green community space.

**The Hindhead and Beacon Hill Group** had made a start and further meetings were planned. LBur hoped it would be possible to produce outline proposals before long.

It was agreed that, ideally, each ODG should plan to hold a forum in January and that it was also important to hold an integrated planning session/workshop for all members of both the ODGs and PLGs as soon as possible. The date of 17 January was suggested.

### **6.3 Progress Reports from Policy Development Groups**

CC confirmed the aim was to deliver policy proposals to the Editorial Group in February.

#### **Transport**

DS, Stephen Bennett and Richard Workman have undertaken to develop policy proposals based on the Stage 1 Consultation results but as DS had sent his apologies, progress so far was uncertain. It is imperative some results are produced soon.

**Action: CC to talk to RW to establish progress and process.**

#### **Community Action Group**

MB had undertaken to lead the group but, in his absence there was no progress report

**Action: SB to contact MB to establish progress.**

#### **Business and Economy**

JM confirmed that his group will have a draft by 15 December.

It was noted that as the policies emerge we need to share them with HTC for their review. It would also be sensible to 'trial' them with the community. This might be done by way of workshops.

**Action: PLG to develop proposal on how to organise this.**

### **6.4 Progress re Sustainability**

SB confirmed that Jane Devlin, who is a member of Transition Haslemere, had volunteered to lead a work group that would advise and help the other work groups to ensure that they have adequately considered the sustainability of their proposals and collected the necessary evidence before the plan is completed for public consultation.

#### **6.5 Accumulating an Engagement and Consultation Record**

When the plan is submitted for external examination it will be necessary to produce a record with supporting evidence to demonstrate that we have consulted widely enough. Susanna Brown has volunteered to begin to pull this together and will be contacting SG members for any records they may have of engagement and consultation activities that they have been involved with.

#### **7. Initial reflections from the Editor**

LBur reported that she had been meeting members of HV and researching various sources to get up to speed. She would start work soon on trying to pull together the draft of an overall vision for Haslemere. She would like to consolidate the thoughts of everyone around the table. Establishing the Vision was an important starting point. She had received an insight from a volunteer that "there is not really a sense of ownership of the town by the people of the town" and thought insights such as these would be important to collate as inputs into development of the Vision. LBur requested that any thoughts/objectives were sent to her via email by w/c 8 December so that they could be included.

There is a need to raise the profile of HV because when we finally get to the referendum, voters will need to know what this is all about. PI suggested the Christmas Market on 7 December offered an opportunity at least for posters but it was felt that it was too late to organise this. LBur suggested that we should draw press attention towards issues such as there being approximately 6,000 people of working age in Haslemere of which only 10% work in the town and its environs. JF suggested it might be advantageous to produce a briefing document for Town Council candidates and suggested we might invite candidates to a HV briefing session.

**Action: JM undertook to approach Mr Wiglaw to see if he might be willing to help with publicity.**

#### **8. Assets of Community Value - The Youth Campus**

RSer reported that he had started to develop the application for listing of the Youth Campus. It was a slow process but he would try and enlist the assistance of James Birkett who had completed the application regarding the Police Station. After discussion of the issues it was agreed that HV should apply to register the Youth Campus as a community asset. Applying to register it would bring it to WBC's notice that this is an asset highly valued by many in the community.

The Youth Campus was the first priority but RSer and KG were asked to provide the SG with a list of other possible community assets as soon as possible.

#### **9. Any other business**

None

#### **10. Date of next meeting Wednesday, 17 December**

Further date: Tuesday, 20 January 2015