

Southwater Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Present

Graham Watkins - Chairman

Geoff Cole

Neil Whitear.

Ramesh Shingadia

John Mace

Deborah Priebe.

Godfrey Kesari

Apologies:

Pauline Flores More

In attendance:

Chris Carey, Andrew Metcalfe.

1 Introductions

The Chairman introduced Andrew Metcalfe of ENPLAN to the meeting. Andrew has been commissioned by the parish council to advise regarding the detailed professional planning work required for the neighbourhood plan.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

These were approved.

3 Housing Needs Assessment

CC outlined the background to the need to undertake a revised housing needs assessment. and the communication from Horsham District Council had recently written to the parish advising that such an assessment be undertaken. SPC has approached the Locality Group which is a Government -funded support organisation and sought free technical advice. The application is being processed and a teleconference is arranged for 16th July with Locality.

AM Advised that SPC needs to ensure that the parish plans for its future needs and the HNA will be important to advise and guide this. All development needs to be sustainable with the emphasis on the location of new development, particularly housing. AM stressed the need for the NP to be evidence based.

GW stated the need to await the outcome of the HNA which will in turn advise time scales. GW would like to target a draft plan for the end of year - AM will examine the timescale. AM advised that it will be difficult to enforce a housing requirement different from that in the HDC local plan.

RS asked what information and data forms the basis of the HNA. CC detailed the data sources contained in the AECOM guidance document. AECOM are a large consultancy which have been commissioned by the Government to produce guidance on the preparation of housing needs assessments.

4 Policies

AM confirmed that he is in process of reviewing the plan policies and preparing a draft plan document. The objective is to ensure a robust plan. AM confirmed that several policies will benefit from considered amendment. The housing policies will be put on hold until result of HNA is known .

GC is keen that the plan designates local green spaces as these will give a high level of protection in the future. AM advised that Local Green Spaces assessments will need to be undertaken.

AM advised that the NP gives power to create DC policies to sit on a par with HDPF policies.

GW stated that the NP is not all about housing and development but the way people live.

NW raised the issue of future housing numbers and reviews of HDC local plan. GW stated that SPC should set up a monitoring system to review the NP every 5 years in accordance with changes in the local plan

AM stated that the parish council is aiming to produce a number of evidence - based documents to support the plan policies.

AM stated that a landscape character assessment will be undertaken. JM enquired as to whether this will include areas of ancient woodland. AM advised that there are national policies to cover ancient woodland overseen by Natural England. The Group stressed that it is keen to examine and review Ancient Woodland designations. The Group stressed that it is keen to examine and review Ancient Woodland designations. AM stated that should an area not be designated AW and was considered to be important in landscape terms, a policy can be drafted and included in the plan to protect important local woodlands.

5 Revised call for sites

CC advised that the new call for sites exercise is due to end in 17th July with the outcome being reported to the next meeting of Steering Group . Two existing site promoters have confirmed that they wish their submission to remain as initially stated plus one new submission has been received to date.

6 Project Plan

Still targeting the end of year for The Regulation 14 stage but this will be dependent upon the completion of the housing Needs Assessment.

5 Membership of Steering Group

GW stated that he would like to recruit new members to the Steering Group and asked for suggestions.

DONM 12th Sept 2017.

AM will review the draft plan document excluding the housing policies and the list of evidence- based documents.