



**ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING NOTES – TOWN HALL CHAMBER
WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 2023 2PM**

In attendance:

Chair Mike Heelis MBE (MH),
Deputy-Chair David Allan MBE (DA),
Councillor Graham Titterington – Town Council Representative.
Mr Tony Souter – Community Representative
Mr John Grace – Community Representative
Ms Suzie Burns – Community Representative
Mr Peter Holden – Community Representative.

Leah Coney – Town Clerk (LC)

The purpose of the session was to introduce the wider members of the Steering Group to each other, explain the process, take questions and confirm, in light of the discussions, if the members were indeed happy to take part as community representatives of the Alton Neighbourhood Plan review process.

Introductions and apologies.

MH noted that he had approached both Charles Kaye, who was unable to attend today's session but he hoped was on-board. He will be considering healthcare alongside Pam Jones, who also gave apologies for the session. Pam will be working on education as well as healthcare. Charles Dixon has also agreed to work his magic with data analysis and presentation as he had on the previous plan. Finally, Steve Hunt had been approached to join as the District Council representative; this needs following up but the group has been joined by Suzie Burns (as a community representative) who is currently an EHDC Councillor, ensuring there is representation for the moment.

Background and benefits of the current and original Neighbourhood Plans.

MH explained the benefits on the plan in terms of spatial planning and the ability to repel speculative development and also the financial benefit from CIL funding arising from having a plan.

Reason we are doing another plan now.

MH explained the current validity of the existing Alton Neighbourhood Plan (ANP2) until November 2023 and why, with the current delays to the emerging Local Plan and an element of uncertainty in the proposed changes to the NPPF, there seemed little choice but to revisit the ANP and review in full.

Introduction to the Charter and Project Plan

MH then ran through the draft charter and project plan highlighting the key times for public engagement and consultation – with the first date for the diary being the 19th and 20th May at the Assembly Rooms for the “kick-off” session with the public.

Our Consultants - O'Neill Homer Ltd

MH detailed the role of our very pro-active consultants, who also worked with the NPSG on the modification to the original plan in 2021. They will be working with us through to the submission stage and we will be meeting with them in person once a month. They will also be taking us through the scenario planning process to understand the implications on potential large scale developments outside of the ANP area coming forward.

LC has secured funding from Locality for the work of the consultants to the end of the current financial year as well as funding for technical support packages, which means we have AECOM on board to undertake Design Coding and an Alton specific Housing Needs Assessment. The Town Council has also agreed funding through Neighbourhood CIL as needed.

Progress to date.

A summary of progress to date was given including the review of the current plan policies to consider their retention, modification or setting aside. As a result of these workshopping sessions have been put into an action plan by our consultants which will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Charter and Project Plan draft has already been circulated to the group.

A submission has already also been made to HCC to assist with the commencement of the Alton Transport Study and MH and DA are looking to arrange to meet with the SDNPA to discuss a number of sites included on the current EHDC LAA (Land Availability Assessment) to consider the impact from the National Park (principally the land to the south of Windmill Hill)

Communications plan.

LC is currently compiling the communications plan which will include all forms of traditional and digital media channels including regular slots on the radio, articles in the local newspaper and the Altonian, as well as trying some newer social media devices such as video reels and on-line polling to engage with the harder to reach groups in the younger age categories.

The ANP3 has a new logo and a new Facebook and Instagram page but highly conscious of the current trends of social media locally, LC asked that whilst the group are absolutely encouraged to talk about the ANP3 with their networking channels, groups and colleagues, please refrain currently from any unscheduled social media posts at the moment as both content and tonality of messaging is going to be key to engagement and needs to be managed carefully!

Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 22nd March 2pm – 4pm at the Town Hall with our consultants. This is for the exec Steering Group and wider membership attendance is not required but if any members wish to come along, they are most welcome.

With all those present verbally confirming their agreement to work on the ANP3, the meeting closed at 3.30pm.