



**ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING NOTES – TOWN HALL CHAMBER
WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH 2023 2PM**

In attendance:

Chair Mike Heelis (MH),
Deputy-Chair David Allan (DA),
Councillor Graham Titterington – Town Council Representative.
John Grace – Community Representative
Suzie Burns – Community Representative
Charles Kaye- Community Representative
Pam Jones – Community Representative.
Adam Harvey – EHDC (AH)
Leani Haim (via Video Link)

Leah Coney – Town Clerk (LC)

1. Introduction and Apologies

Apologies were noted from Charles Dixon, Tony Souter and Peter Holden.

It was noted that Mr Tony Souter had decided not to take forward membership of the group due to other work commitments.

MH wished to extend particular thanks to Adam for attending, given his current workload.

2. Third Party Updates

- a) **East Hampshire District Council.** AH noted that EHDC will be looking to publish the summary responses from the Reg 18 Part 1 in the next 2 – 3 weeks. They continue to work on an early draft of the Local Plan which will form the basis of the Reg 18 Part 2 towards the end of this year, with the current timetable looking towards examination in 2024 and adoption in 2025.
- b) **South Downs National Park Authority.** MH attended the SDNP Parish workshop at Meonstoke Village Hall on 21st March. The workshop was to encourage Parishes to define priority statements to assist SDNP with definition of their updated SDNP Plan (started Dec 22, now delayed awaiting legislation output). The planning policy manager presentation urged Parishes to submit Parish Priority statements (she called Neighbourhood Plans - light) by October this year. In planning terms these statements will not be considered as material planning considerations moving forward. MH asked the question as to whether the SDNP would object to development on the South Eastern slopes of Windmill Hill. Between the hilltop and the A31 bypass. This area would overlook the National Park from a height. He spoke to Tim Slaney (Head of Planning, SDNP) and his view was that the SDNP Authority would put in a “soft objection” to any proposed development of that area.
- c) **Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.** LH noted the consultation has now closed on the proposed changes to the NPPF as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. There are two live consultations which will be monitored for the progression of the this project. These are the Technical consultation on the [Infrastructure Levy](#) and the [Environmental Outcomes Report](#) Consultation.

- d) **Hampshire County Council.** DA reported on the most recent meeting on the 21st March with HCC to discuss the proposed refresh of the Alton Strategic Transport Study (2015) HCC Officers has asked for view on the locations for various traffic counters (vehicle, cycle and pedestrian) The work appears to be evolving more as a document to consider active travel rather than addressing capacity issues and junction works and there was discussion over funding for Basingstoke Road/Petuis Avenue and New Odiham Road and Basingstoke Road as it is likely that current funding will only support one of these being taken forward. Another meeting has been requested once the appointed consultants have been chosen to workshop through options with them.

3. Action Plan.

The group worked through the Action Plan of made and proposed policies as per the schedule provide by LH and the spreadsheet provided by MH. The following actions were noted

Ref: Action 1 – LC to contact EHDC mapping for updated map of NP boundary area which can be used for consultation purposes

Ref: Action 2 – LC to contact Kevin Thurlow EHDC regarding attendance at the Design Code Site Visit with AECOM once date is known.

Ref: Action 3 – LC to share with AECOM response from EHDC on First Homes. AH confirmed the difficult position within East Hampshire due to the £250k cap and current affordability.

Ref: Action 5 – LC to share with Jenny Wood the outcomes of the Land Availability Plan being prepared by LH in respect of Brownfield Sites and request sight of the EHDC Brownfield Availability Assessment if available within the required timeframe.

Ref: Action 7 – LC to upload EHDC SPD to Action Plan Box Folder.

Ref: Action 10 – LC to contact EHDC to confirm when Playing Fields and Rec facilities study being completed by EHDC and any evidence which can be shared.

Ref: Action 11 – LC to provide Pam Jones with contact details for Martin Shefferds replacement at HCC Education to follow up on evidence base.

Ref: Action 12: LC to contact Jenny Wood and Danielle Friedman-Brown to discuss potential for workshopping session with Litchfields, identified stakeholders and consultants as part of Town Centre evidence base.

Ref: Action 13: LH to provide examples of how the HBIC information is used.

Ref: Action 15 and 16. MH to meet with Alton Climate Action Network as a key stakeholder to discuss views on inclusion of climate change mitigation policy.

Ref: Action 18: LC to provide spreadsheet of current Action Points within ANP2 for review by Exec. SG

Ref: Action 19: LC preparing Comms Plan for engagement overall and MH has drafted content for first Drop-in Session. Both will continue to be developed.

CH3 – It was discussed that in planning terms there are limitations to what CH3 can contain, which centre around safeguarding existing uses. Any identified shortfall in provisions or aspirations for enhanced facilities or service delivery would need to be worked into Action Points within ANP3 rather than within the policies themselves.

Overall evidence bases – LC to resource compilation of all files contained in the “Box” to facilitate easy reference for examination of all evidence used.

4. Updating the Project Plan

LC will continue to update the plan as work progresses and will table at each meeting for information.

5. Consultation update.

MH has prepared first draft of content for first drop in session. It was reiterated that the public engagement sessions need good support from the group. LC to contact EHDC for large scale ANP boundary map for drop in session.

6. Communications Plan Update.

LC tabled the updated Comms Plan confirming that Facebook and Instagram are now launched, new email address set up, paper Altonian going out next week and updated website will be ready in the

next two weeks. MH recording interview for local radio. DA reminded the SG that social media posts will be originated by LC whilst content is built up.
LC to set up spreadsheet detailing all correspondence and responses from stakeholders.

7. **Dates of next meetings:**

5th April (Internal) likely to be deferred to 11th April (if required) on Zoom

19th April (Consultants and LPA) 2pm Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 3.40pm