



**ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY 31st MAY 2023 2PM – via ZOOM**

In attendance:

Chair Mike Heelis (MH),
Deputy-Chair David Allan (DA),
Graham Titterington (GT)
Leani Haim – Consultant (LH)
Neil Homer – Consultant (NH)
Leah Coney – Town Clerk (LC)

1) Steering Group Membership update.

MH hoping to meet with Rob Fowell to chat in advance of him joining the group.

LC reported that Councillor Graham Hill will be the EHDC rep to the SG going forward and two Town Councillors have expressed an interest and they will be invited to attend the next session in an observing capacity to understand the work of the group.

It is possible that due to other commitments Jan Nicholas and Charles Dixon may not be in a position to continue as members of the SG (TBC)

MH noted that ACAN had expressed an interest in joining the SG but a concern was raised that whilst their input is greatly valued, the group may end up larger than originally intended if it were opened up to local organisations. It would be better if the SG could continue to draw on their knowledge and input on an as needed basis.

2) Action Plan Updates –

i) response to AECOM Housing Needs Assessment draft. LC advised consolidated response to the draft was being sent back to AECOM today.

ii) Town Centre consultants (noting hold Town Centre Masterplanning in abeyance) LC noted that she was contacting Chris at People for Places to arrange taking forward a focus group workshop of key stakeholders to look specifically at the area in and around the High Street as part of the plan review.

iii) Site Allocation Interrogation. MH has prepared a first draft document using the criteria considered in the previous plan, to tabulate the LAA sites and populate with a first “sift” LC to upload to the Box and send to the consultants.

iv) Green Infrastructure Map. LH to respond to comments raised by Alton Natural History Society.

- v) Local List – MH to check what the criteria was for defining the candidates for the Alton Local List as conducted by the Alton Buildings Preservation Trust to confirm if carried out in accordance with Historic England guidance.
- vi) LC noted the education evidence base (minus early years provision) is now uploaded to the box, along with the community facilities evidence base written by Suzie Burns.
- vii) DA requested the updated Sustainable Travel Map from LH.

3) Kick Off Session feedback.

MH commented that attendance was really good at over 330, of which around half were from Holybourne. Huge thanks to the Town Hall Team for their help and providing the booking in system and great to see Adam from EHDC pop in to see the session. There were literally hundreds and hundreds of post-it notes and postcard comments, which, thanks to those volunteers who were given the task of writing up the notes on the various sections, are now all collated and tabulated ready for review in due course.

The group confirmed that the next public engagement sessions would be the pre-Reg14 in September where the outputs from the first drop-in sessions will have been distilled into draft policy areas /wording and the outputs from the scenario planning would also be presented for feedback. The physical drop-in sessions at the Assembly Rooms will be on the 8th /9th September and LC confirmed there will be an option to have a static display for the remainder of the month in the Energy Advice Café which could also be used for focus group sessions as needed. Details of the September session will be added to the paper Altonian which is going to print mid-June ready for distribution, week commencing 17th July.

4) Scenario Planning Session (next meeting)

NH took the group through the details of how the scenario planning session will work next month and a draft version of the mapping which will be used. The aim is to end up with a site allocation process which is both technically robust as well as having community input. The premise is based on traditional spatial planning, undertaking a SWOT analysis using genuine spatial criteria, to construct plausible scenarios that have logic and meaning; looking at the options for scale of growth and the limited ways in which a settlement can grow. The workshop will therefore evaluate the effect on each option to infrastructure, access to the town centre, open spaces, community facilities etc.. and considering what are the trade-offs?

On first look the group felt there were a couple of site omissions in the scenarios which probably needed adding in and a couple of sites which needed to be omitted – LC to take this off-line with LH to assist with producing a final version for the session which will have the sites numbered.

MH noted that he is having a briefing session this coming Friday with the some of the Steering Group Members who have expressed an interest in working on the site allocations element of the

plan and he will ensure they understand the purpose and format so we can really focus through the session without having to do too much in the way of scene setting. LH confirmed there would be a slide pack to accompany the session which can be used as the agenda for the meeting and this will be sent over in the next few days.

- 5) Dates of next meeting 14th June (consultants in person for scenario planning and LPA)