



**ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY 12th JULY 2023 2PM**

In attendance:

Mike Heelis - Chair
David Allan - Vice-chair
Leani Haim – Consultant
Ebba Carling - Consultants
Cllr John Chubb - ATC
Jenny Wood – Principal Policy Planner EHDC
Cllr Graham Hill – EHDC Representative
John Grace – Community Representative
Suzie Burns - Community Representative
Pam Jones - Community Representative
Rob Fowell - Community Representative
Paul Fitzgibbon - Community Representative

Leah Coney – Town Clerk (LC)

1) **Apologies** received from Peter Holden, Cllr Annette Eyre and Cllr Graham Hill

2) Updates

- i) **EHDC** – updated East Hants Local Development Scheme has just been updated and [published](#). JW noted that officers are currently working towards Planning Policy Panel on the 10th January 2024 to approve the documentation ready for the Reg 18 (Part 2) to commence.
- ii) **DLUHC** – No update. NPPF announcement due September.
- iii) **HCC** – no update. DA to follow up on progress with HCC
- iv) **AECOM** – a) HNA, final tweaks being updated by AECOM ready to pass to Locality b) Design Code, comments have been collated by LC to go back to Jessie at AECOM (*noted that Kevin Thurlow EHDC would like to respond so will need to the end of the month, CL to update AECOM*) c) SEA, scoping report finalised.

3) **Action Plan** – All complete for now, noting some resource may be required in respect of the Local List nearer to or at Reg 14.

4) Scenario Planning

There were a number of comments from the SG relating to the scenario planning which will be fed back to MH to collate and forward to LH.

PF – Holybourne scenario SWOT analysis issues relating to the proposed housing numbers, transport and safety. Several points not adequately analysed – which he will send across for forwarding to the consultants. In the opportunities column please drop the comment on cycling misleading – it will limit the capacity for cycling, potentially harmful if more housing on London Road.

Possibility of land being set aside for local benefit appreciate this could permanently safeguard existing recreation space such as the cricket ground but would actually lose valuable community space in the form of existing footpaths.

LH clarified that comments relating to Holybourne not being able to be included within the plan, even though it is within the NP boundary, were based upon the original number of 1200 which by definition would have made it a strategic site and therefore outside the scope of the plan, as this level of site would be included within the Local Plan. With a much lower revised number discussed of 200, then it is well within the scope of the plan to consider.

RF – Scenario 2 we talked about height 145m – it was noted this had been added but would be checked.

LH – scenario 1 now gives an indicative of 494 (lower number) asked the group is it now plausible as a scenario because the numbers have been lowered? Just something to consider.

There was a detailed discussion over the timing of the EHDC Reg 18 Part 2 and the ANP Reg 14 currently timetabled for December 2023 and whether this date might have to be deferred. LH suggested a meeting with EHDC to sit down and understand what information can be shared in respect of housing numbers and likely strategic allocations to ensure the respective plans don't trip over each other or contain contradictions. At the least EHDC should be able to share sufficient evidence to determine the plausibility of the scenarios. LC to speak to JW/AH to arrange. JW noted that until such time as they have a district allocation number, an Alton one will not be known. Work is currently being undertaken to ensure any sites on the LAA that have not been contacted recently, are still available. This work, alongside the updates to the 5-year land supply and the awaited outcome of the NPPF review makes it very difficult to provide the clarity the SG would like at the current time.

MH then went through the scenario planning action plan and allocate roles to the respective items. LH stressed that it is absolutely essential that we get the document validated as well as we can, so please send your comments.

5) Public Engagement session 8th/9th September

There was discussion over whether the SG would be ready to go back to the public on the advertised dates of the 8th/9th September. The project plan currently has the whole month set aside for

engagement with the two-day drop-in session towards the beginning of the engagement period. On the basis that it is likely that work will be ongoing in respect of the scenarios it may be that conceptual ideas rather than final scenarios form part of the session. This will mean a further period of engagement pre-reg14 on residential allocations but having completed the collation of the body of evidence required for the rest of the plan, it was felt there was still plenty of material to go back to the community with.

The group was generally in agreement that the plan should keep moving forward and the drop-in sessions on the 8th/9th September were a additional opportunity to gather support for the plan and build on the first sessions. Communication is key and going ahead is a positive affirmation of continued progress. The project plan would be amended though to reflect that this engagement period will now cover just the two day drop in rather than the previously proposed month.

MH will work on a PowerPoint/slides pack for the site allocations and LC committed to preparing slides on the other elements of the plan including potentially some draft policies and action plans, subject to SG approval.

On that basis and given the amount of work required to be ready for the beginning of September it was agreed that the wider SG being invited to meet every two weeks between now and September. LC to send round meeting invitations.

Meeting concluded at 4.15pm.

Date of next meeting 26th July 2pm Town Council Chamber.