



**ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY 26th JULY 2023 2PM**

In attendance:

Mike Heelis - Chair
John Grace – Community Representative
Suzie Burns - Community Representative
Pam Jones - Community Representative
Rob Fowell - Community Representative
Paul Fitzgibbon - Community Representative
Cllr Annette Eyre – Alton Town Council

Leah Coney – Town Clerk (LC)

1) **Apologies** received from Peter Holden, David Allan and Cllr Graham Hill.

2) **Scenario Planning**

The group spent 3 hours working through the scenario planning document prepared by the consultants, reviewing the entire document line by line and amending the SWOT analysis as appropriate.

The group were in agreement that there would need to be a simple, executive summary for the public with glossary of terms in order to aid in understanding. It was felt that the concept of scenario planning has been one which has taken some time to understand and has presented some real challenges so it would help with engagement enormously if some of the concepts and terminology could be explained.

LC was asked to confirm the “200” number proposed for Holybourne which had been given by EHDC.

Separate to the scenario planning itself LC will produce a statement about potential for town centre – NDOs, changing secondary retail boundaries, flexible use classes etc.. to aid discussions in the future on this aspect of the plan and to ascertain if these concepts could assist in delivery of site allocations in the scenario plan option 1 in the town centre.

Following the review of the scenario planning document MH introduced an alternative scenario proposal for the SG to consider, which he felt may better define the options still based on scenario

planning but taking into account the landscape led, as well as infrastructure led, priorities of the plan. LC reminded the SG that the scenarios should build upon each other so some tweaks may be needed to the definitions and numbers but so long as the options are consistent and logical then it was in the gift of the group to make whatever changes they wished. RF and SB sketched out a map to articulate the alternative options, which effectively worked on the principle of brown field first and then starting to extend along the valley whilst still in the “bowl”, then further extending to maximise the length of the valley (including Holybourne), before going up the sides of the valley – none of the options at any time breaking out over the skyline. Due to the time constraints, it was agreed to continue the discussion via email to try and clearly define these scenarios before passing back to the consultants and tabling back to the next SG meeting.

3) Public Engagement session 8th/9th September

MH will work on a PowerPoint/slides pack for the site allocations and confirmed that the consultants would prepare a draft policy schedule on the other elements of the plan for the SG to review which could then be used in the session alongside introduction of documents such as the draft design code.

The group will consider further at the next meeting whether site allocations will form part of the sessions or whether the group feel it is too soon. Once the content for the sessions is agreed LC will prepare comms so residents understand in advance what the sessions will cover.

4) Updated project plan

The updated project plan proposed as +3 months was tabled and agreed by the group.

Meeting concluded at 5.10pm.

Date of next meeting 9th August 2pm Town Council Chamber (with consultants)

It was noted that as the next session would continue to focus on development of the scenario planning and the September engagement sessions, LC would advise EHDC and District Council representative Cllr Graham Hill, that they could stand down for this next session and we look forward to seeing them again in September.