



**ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY 23rd AUGUST 2023 2PM**

In attendance:

Mike Heelis – Chair
David Allan – Vice Chair
John Grace – Community Representative
Peter Holden - Community Representative
Paul Fitzgibbon - Community Representative
Cllr Annette Eyre – Alton Town Council

Leah Coney – Town Clerk (LC)

1) **Apologies** received from Pam Jones, Rob Fowell, Suzie Burns,

2) **Scenario Planning Action Plan.**

There was a discussion over scenario 1 and how the SG could make the best use of it to reduce the reliance on greenfield development. It was appreciated that providing certainty with so many very small sites was difficult but there was support from the group for looking closer at the Chesham example which uses NDOs to make the allocations plausible and LC took an action to speak to the consultants about how this would work in practice, specifically the feasibility of the following options:

- 1) Progress the NP as is with an action in the plan to develop and adopt an NDO to provide future certainty in development of the town centre
- 2) Twin tracking an NDO with the NP, with the NDO being adopted shortly after the main NP
- 3) Whether they have to be developed together. Whilst they go through a different regulatory framework do they have to be intrinsically linked?

LC noted that progression of an NDO would need public support as ATC would need to be approached for funding. A display board relating to NDOs would be created for the drop in session to see if there is public support for this concept for the town centre.

The group asked if the colour scheme on the scenario plan overview picture could be changed to be more visible. Colour scheme was agreed. DA will update scenario planning table, LC to ask OH to update detailed map and RF to be asked to update overview map so they all align.

The group then reviewed the Action Plan as follows

3)

Extract from Page 4 of Scenario Planning Doc			
Action Point	Detail	Responsibility	Progress
1	Validate the list of sites only recommending deletion of those where schemes have planning approval and are being implemented or have recently been completed.	Exec	Done and ongoing. MH meeting with ABRI to look at town centre infill.
2	Contact EHDC planning team to ask for details of promoted schemes in order to refine satellite village and Holybourne scenario details.	LC	Done and ongoing. LC has now spoken to agents for Holybourne and for South Alton (Windmill Hill) LC to send scenario plans to EHDC & HCC
3	Contact the education service planning team at Hampshire County Council and the primary and secondary schools to ask for their observations on the implications for school places of each scenario.	PJ	
4	Contact the highways service planning team at Hampshire County Council to ask for their observations on the implications for transport and roads of each scenario.	DA	LC to send scenario pack, no progress anticipated. DA and LC met with HCC yesterday and a further date arranged for 8 weeks' time to keep in dialogue.
5	Contact local the GP services and Hospital to ask for their observations on the implications for access to services of each scenario.	CK	Mike H to contact Charles Kay and seek to get him to implement once final document issued. LC noted CK arranging a visit to community Hospital, an ATC officer will attend a log report for evidence base.
6	Consider how each scenario is likely to change the scale and pattern of demand for local employment (including retail), other public services/facilities and community buildings/land, including the possibility that one or more scenarios might open up or close off opportunities to accommodate change.	SG	We need to ask various subject matter experts and consult's for their comments. May be looked at with town centre Masterplanning? LC can also speak to EHDC Eco Dev as needed.

7	Consider how each scenario might impact on the quality and scenic beauty of the National Park in principle.	MH	Send scenario plan to MH contact at SDNP
8	Consider how each scenario might create an opportunity to improve existing green infrastructure or might harm it.	MH	Mike H has communicated with Cathy Wilson Alton Natural History Society. LC liaised with AECOM / SEA Mark Fessey very positive response.
9	Consider how each scenario might create an opportunity to improve the heritage interest of the town or might harm it.	MH	Mike H already asked Alton Buildings Preservation Trust for their input and a paper is awaited.
10	Consider the options for rationalising car parking in the town centre i.e. is there an opportunity to build a multi-storey car park?	DA	On-going discussion
11	Update the description, positive and adverse effects for each scenario as necessary from the information gathered.	SG	Completed prior to drop-in session.
12	Provide a copy of this note and the attachments to EHDC and continue to invite them to steering group meetings	LC/DA	Leah to send doc once latest updates included to EHDC Planning.
13	Plan steering group agendas for the next couple of months as follows:	SG	Done.

4) Draft Policies List

Noted by the group who felt there were no omissions and these have been added to the drop in session slide pack. The wording of the draft policies themselves would be considered after the next engagement sessions.

5) Public Engagement session 8th/9th September

LC to complete slide pack and add in NDO page, updated maps etc.. and then send to printers. Copy to SG and consultants.

It was agreed that MH would give a talk to attendees at the sessions every hour for around 10 minutes to help explain the scenario planning process and take questions. This would be held in the main hall so everyone could listen before visiting the displays.

There was discussion over having a “vision” for the plan and attendees would be asked for their input for a phrase which captures the essence of what the plan says and does for the future of Alton. LC took an action to prepare an updated poster using images of countryside and building sites to convey the “Have Your Say” messaging. PH to take photos of the Borovere development and send to LC for possible use.

MH took a list of SG members who were happy to attend the sessions and those prepared to undertake write up tasks after the event to transcribe all of the post-it notes and postcards.

PF would liaise with RF over suggested additional ways of communication with residents to get more engagement from a wider audience and send details to LC to add to comms plan.

6) Design Code Comments

With no further comments, MH will send his final remarks on the spreadsheet across to LC who would add in the comments from JG and send back to AECOM. It is hoped to have a revised draft back ready for the drop in sessions.

Meeting concluded at 3.15pm

Date of next meeting 7th September (LPA and Consultants)