



**ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2023 2PM**

In attendance:

Mike Heelis- Chair
David Allan – Vice Chair
John Grace – Community Representative
Peter Holden - Community Representative
Paul Fitzgibbon - Community Representative
Rob Fowell – Community Representative
Richard Parratt - Community Representative
Suzie Burns – Community Representative
Pat Harris – Finance and Administration Manager (ATC)

Leah Coney – Town Clerk (LC)

Also in attendance- John Bound (observing to consider improvements to communications strategy)

- 1) **Apologies** – Cllr Annette Eyre, Cllr John Chubb and EHDC Councillor Graham Hill
- 2) **Third Party updates since last meeting**
 - a) **AECOM – Design Coding.** Local List Letters have now gone out, three very nice responses back, Special Character Areas have now been included within the Design Code final document.
 - b) **AECOM – Town Centre Masterplanning.** A very useful site visit was carried out last week; Kevin Thurlow from EHDC also attended. There was a good discussion over the possibility of NDOs, shop front design, primary and secondary retails boundaries, public realm spaces, opportunities for improved accessibility and active travel opportunities. The team at AECOM will now prepare a draft report content structure.
 - c) **Rolling Actions** – Open Spaces Amenity Land evidence gathering is being prepared by RF who will circulate the work thus far. Landowners will need to be contacted once mapping completed. This can then be added into the CH policy on public spaces.
 - d) **EHDC** – legal advice was sought and now obtained on the matter of conformity – barrister doesn't see a problem with the NP meeting the basic conditions, but concern over if the ANP housing number doesn't get delivered, does it adversely impact the Local Plan delivery; we will need to discuss whether the Reg 14 and Reg 18 part II mirror site allocations or Reg 18 has alternate allocations to fall back on if the NP doesn't deliver. LC will meet with AH and JW before the end of October to refine this. It was also noted that the updated LAA was now completed and a link will be sent. Also noted that 5YLS (1st April 2023) will be published shortly but likely to be around 4.5 years.

3) **Drop in session feedback and analysis – review of responses**

There was an initial discussion over “skyline” given there were comments from the SDNPA in relation to scenario 4 in particular and the impact on views in and out of the Park. AH commented that he would like to see more details around the landscape contour constraint. Whilst a number of respondents said please keep the skyline clear, ANP3 needs to clearly evidence better why the 145 contour is being used. DA Noted that the only sites this relates to in Alton are the ones above Greenfield which have been successfully dismissed at appeal, so it is possible to demonstrate the precedence of a topographical constraint.

PF what would we get if we abandoned the 145m? need to give due consideration to that and why that criterion is used.

There was also a detailed discussion over the public comments in respect of scenario 3 and whether as a result, it could be taken forward given the views from Holybourne residents. There was concern that where a site is individually identified as in scenario 3, people are galvanised which PH felt was clearly evident having written up the comments. Other members of the group felt that sometimes people only do engage where self-interest is involved so it can be hard to get a mixture of responses, and whilst we have publicised to many people, most have little awareness. PF responded that he did not agree and he had encouraged people in Holybourne to come along with an open mind.

AH just cautioned to be aware that it is the evidence has to be fully justified to get through the examination process, so whilst public consultation is important the plan has to be led by the evidence.

Drawing this discussion to a close, the group noted that it would need to bottom out the validity of the evidence from the public engagement sessions and this would be considered at the next meeting in advance of the session with the consultants on the 1st November when site allocations will be considered for inclusion in the plan.

- 4) **Draft Policies List** –MH read out the consolidated list of comments in respect of the draft policies list and group members added further comments and suggested amendments along with proposed action points which were all noted by LC (which will be written up and circulated to the group prior to submission to the consultants.) EHDC would like to give a written response and committed to return their views by the end of the month.

5) **Next steps in the Project Plan and Policy Drafting.**

It was agreed that the group would look at the principles to be considered for site selection at next meeting in advance of the site allocations meeting on the 1st November.

Meeting concluded at 3.45pm

Date of next meeting 18th October the Town Hall 2pm