ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2023 2PM

In attendance:
Mike Heelis- Chair
John Grace – Community Representative
Peter Holden - Community Representative
Paul Fitzgibbon - Community Representative
Rob Fowell – Community Representative
John Bound – Communications Representative
Richard Parratt - Community Representative
Suzie Burns – Community Representative (from 3pm)
Councillor Graham Hill (EHDC Representative)
Pat Harris – Finance and Administration Manager (ATC)

Leah Coney – Town Clerk (LC)

1) **Apologies –** Cllr Annette Eyre, Cllr John Chubb and David Allan

2) **Third Party updates since last meeting**

EHDC. Adam Harvey and Jenny Wood met with the Town Clerk (LC) last Monday to discuss the site allocations for the Neighbourhood Plan and how this will align with the emerging Local Plan. Due to the papers for the draft Local Plan not going into the public domain until the beginning of January, LC confirmed that the meeting was incredibly useful but respecting confidentiality, was going to provide a reasonably high-level update. The two main matters conveyed to the group were:

1) The "number" which is going to be around 1,300 – 1,500 in total across the Alton Neighbourhood Plan area as well as the surrounding villages.
2) The "Alton shaped hole" in the Local Plan – it is currently proposed that there is at least one site which may end up in both plans at the moment and whether that may cause confusion.

AECOM- Town Centre Masterplanning; the SG received a copy of the draft contents of the Masterplanning documents illustrating the topic areas to be included.

3) **September Public Engagement outputs.**

The Group heard from John Grace, who had prepared an analysis of the transcript comments from the drop in sessions, which will now been added to the consultation summary ready for publication.

The Group also heard from Paul Fitzgibbon who had also prepared an analysis of the transcript comments. This will also be added to the consultation summary, which as a result now has qualitative and quantitative interrogation of the feedback from the event. Both sets of analysis were broadly in agreement with their findings, which was helpful!

The Group discussed both sets of findings and thanked John and Paul for giving this matter such diligent attention, which had clearly been very time consuming.

The updated consultation summary will be sent to the consultants to assist in preparation of a briefing note to accompany the agenda for the site selection meeting on the 1st November.

4) **Principles to be considered for site selection at next meeting.**

MH had prepared a draft "principles" list for the group to consider as part of the preparation for the session on the 1st November. It was noted that some items were very clearly Yes/No answers eg. Has the site been included in the scenario planning, but there was discussion over the concept of scoring sites in relation to certain principles. LC to send to the consultants for a view.

5) **Next steps in the Project Plan, including further public engagement and Policy Drafting.**

An updated project plan is being prepared to build in further public engagement on site selection and to avoid any conflicts with EHDCs timeline for the Reg 18 Part II. LC to prepare and circulate with the papers for the next meeting.

MH agreed to remain after the conclusion of the meeting to talk through a number of background aspects of the plan for anyone who wished to raise any questions or chat through any points.

Meeting concluded at 4.00pm