



**ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY 31st JANUARY 2024**

In attendance:

Mike Heelis – Chair (MH)
David Allan – Vice Chair (DA)
John Bound – Community Representative (JB)
Rob Fowell – Community Representative (RF)
John Grace – Community Representative (JG)
Richard Parratt – Community Representative (RP)
Councillor Suzie Burns – EHDC Representative (SB)
Councillor Graham Hill - ATC Representative (GH)
Pat Harris – Interim Town Clerk (PH)

1. **Apologies** – Peter Holden (PHo), Cllr John Chubb & Councillor Annette Eyre – ex-officio.
Not required: Leah Coney – O’Neil Homer (Consultants) (LC), Adam Harvey (AH) & Jenny Wood (JW) – EHDC
2. **Actions Outstanding** –
 - 2.1 RF has now submitted the Amenity Land mapping to LC and circulated details to SG. MH congratulated and thanked RF on the comprehensive work done
3. **Updates since the last meeting**
 - 3.1 LC had put out a Site Allocations document.
 - 3.2 LC had produced a slimmed-down Local Development Plan Briefing presentation which SG can use
 - 3.3 JG had produced a photographic appreciation (circulated) following JG & RP going back to the two sites visited in October to cross check map references – Chawton & East Worldham both locations from which developments at The Butts and Wilsom Road can clearly be seen. This contradicts the SDNP requirement that views outward from the park should not be interrupted/built upon. The precedent is already set.
 - 3.4 [REDACTED]
 - 3.5 EHDC have launched their Reg 18 Part II – Altonians will be able to comment on the Draft Local Plan by attending the consultation at The Maltings on Saturday, 3rd February from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
 - 3.6 SG were reminded of the housing requirement numbers for Alton set out in the draft plan as follows:

2021-2040 (since 2021)	327 completions
	701 permissions
	1700 proposed
	2728 out to end of plan

Which represents: 32% increase in Alton dwellings (8500)
31% increase in population
 - 3.7 North Hants Hospital Consultation is at The Assembly Rooms again on Saturday, 3rd February from 10.30-12.30 p.m.

- 3.8 MH read out correspondence he had received (and to which he had responded) from Councillor [REDACTED] which was not greeted favourably given the tone and personal slight. This item was “noted” for the Minutes. MH confirmed he had informed the Mayor.
- 3.9 MH had spoken with AH which had resulted in a detailed e-mail from AH with the subject of Alton Town Council – Potential Approach which was an outcome of the discussion held. All members of the SG as well as the Consultants had received a copy and formed the basis of discussion for this Agenda item. The options set out by AH are:
- Do not allocate sites
 - Allocate sites to meet the full requirements identified in the emerging Local Plan (ie. 700 dwellings)
 - Allocate sites to meet some of the requirements identified in the emerging Local Plan

4. Review of housing allocation approach & Site Allocations

4.1

The SG agreed that at the last meeting they had confirmed its’ intention to move forward with Consultants Option B. However, due to growing public negativity and emergence of petition action against a large potential scenario 4 site the EHDC AH options at para 3.9 should be considered.

In considering these options the group concluded the following:

- Option A – do not allocate – will be kept under consideration pending discussions on 14th February.
- Option B it was now agreed that this was not possible.
- Option C – to be further explored at the next meeting on 14th February

Therefore, for the present the SG agreed to impose a delay on any further allocation activity.

- 4.2 **Actions:** PH to advise LC of the outcome of the above and that no further work be undertaken at this time on site allocations until the outcome of the meeting on 14th February is known and better understood as the way forward.
- Actions:** PH to advise AH of the outcome of this meeting as per 4.1 above and invite him to the meeting on 14th February and ensure that he understands it is a delay and not set to cut across the Local Plan.

5. Confirmation of Policies

- 5.1 This work is to continue and LC to carry on with producing Draft NP plan but advise of delay decision at this time – no timescale placed on this delay.

6. Update on Public Engagement/Communication

- 6.1 Last communication was Press Release prior to Christmas and whilst SG were keen to publish an update given the petition on South Alton and residents opposition at Holybourne – JB is to draft something and circulate to all members of the SG for comment. No press release is to be made until at the earliest after the next meeting.

7. Next steps in the Project Plan

- 7.1.No further updating required at this time.

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 RF talked through his Amenity Land mapping – 118 areas identified – 76 of which not owned by ATC or EHDC and additional work undertaken resulting in 51 areas requiring further

investigation as owned by a “third party”. RF will share details with the group in order that it can be reviewed and consolidated.

- 8.2 SG to take photographs of the 95 listed buildings (some of which are terraces) – MH to send list and allocate buildings to SB/DA/GH/RP/JB/RF who will try and ensure a sunny day on which to take the required photographs. On completion will forward to LC.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 14th February at 2.00 p.m.

Meeting concluded at 16:25 p.m.