



ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING NOTES

WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 2024

In attendance:

Mike Heelis – Chair (MH)
David Allan – Vice Chair (DA)
John Bound – Community Representative (JB)
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 (PMH)

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Rob Fowell & Peter Holden Community Representatives

Ex-officio – Councillors Annette Eyre & John Chubb

Not Required: Leah Coney – O'Neill Homer (LC), EHDC Officers, Adam Harvey (AH) & Jenny Wood(JW)

2. Updates since Last Meeting & Actions Arising:

- 2.1 Draft ANP3 to be circulated to all members once LC has updated following comments from MH & DA.
- 2.2 Local List has been submitted to EHDC as previously requested.
- 2.3 Scenario Planning document (based on LC providing full allocation high level capacity testing numbers) to be updated by MH and then circulated to the Group.
- 2.4 RF has advised in terms of actions; by the end of this week, he will produce the letters for communication of the open spaces to landowners and provide to MH.
- 2.5 Reg 14 confirmed 7/8th June in the Assembly Rooms for public engagement as the start of the six-week consultation period. Draft Press Release for non-allocation and full allocation to be submitted to JB to be “polished up”.
- 2.6 Confirmed that due to further deferment by Full Council on 3rd April re site allocations no information on ANP3 is in the current printed edition of the Altonian which is due for delivery week commencing 15th April.
- 2.7 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for both Greenfields Amenity Land and Windmill Hill yet to be undertaken and PMH to arrange for quotes to be obtained.
- 2.8 MH advised that Full Council had deferred a decision twice now on ANPSG recommendation of no allocation. Will go back to Full Council on 1st May. MH provided timeline of other activities undertaken and communications received:

- 11th March, MH & DA undertook briefing to ATC Councillors which included plans and implications – described as a very useful meeting.
 - 13th March MH presented at the Annual Electors Meeting in the Assembly Rooms to a very small audience.
 - 23rd March joint letter on behalf of Jerry Janes (HVA) and Ginny Boxall (Windmill Hill Group) sent to PMH requesting it be forwarded to all councillors and the Chair of the ANPSG. PMH confirmed actioned in accordance with request. MH read the letter out to the SG. PMH also confirmed the letter was published with the Agenda papers for the Full Council meeting of 3rd April.
 - MH advised that he attended MP Damian Hinds meeting on 28st March held at Rehab and reported that the strength and depth of feelings expressed opposing **any development** in Alton took over the whole of the meeting.
- 2.9 MH read out an e-mail received from Councillor Don Hammond following a zoom meeting he had attended with Jerry Janes and other representatives from the HVA
- 2.10 MH advised of an e-mail from EHDC (AH) advising he had forwarded the Local List he had been sent to Peter Fellows and following a further clarification from him had been advised of the criteria used to identify those buildings to go on the Local List
- 2.11 MH provided an update as to the deferment again of the ANPSG recommendation to not allocate in the Neighbourhood Plan which saw a “migration of opinion from councillors” from a no allocation to a full allocation (Scenario 4). It was also noted that opinion was that the issue facing the ANPSG is that of Alton being the only Tier 1 Settlement in the District and the 22% buffer which EHDC had placed on the housing allocation making it an unacceptable number to the residents of Alton.
- 2.12 MH gave an up-to-date breakdown of the numbers currently supporting the 2 of the 3 major campaigns against housing numbers as follows:
- Windmill Hill 2810 supporters (against a target of 5000)
 - Neatham Down 1643 supporters (against a target of 2500)
 - Chawton Park Farm – currently inactive
 - Holybourne – active but no numbers available
- 2.13 An Exec meeting was held on 5th April (MH/DA/PMH/LC) following the Full Council meeting at which it was agreed that it appeared that the stance of the Town Council was in favour of allowing residents to decide about housing and what it was prepared to accept. Based on this, an instruction was given to the consultants to get on with Full Allocation in preparation for the Full Council meeting on 1st May. Based on the assumption that if the no allocation recommendation is rejected and the Council determine that an alternative full allocation (Scenario 4) should be consulted on at Reg 14, then we will have been worked up ready to go to Reg 14 on 7th/8th June consultation start date (start of the 6 week consultation). Should either or both fail and a further deferment decision is made by Full Council then in accordance with the ANPSG the group would stand town.

3. Review of Housing Allocation Approach

- 3.1 This item is pending

4. Site Allocations

- 4.1 This item is pending

5. Confirmation of Policies

- 5.1 Cannot be updated as dependent on whether housing number allocation is confirmed. However, MH & DA had returned comments to LC on the Draft Plan to date which is silent on site allocations. Will be circulated once available from LC.

6. Update on Public Engagement/Communications & Next steps in the Project Plan

- 6.1 Assuming Town Council decision is either Full Allocation or no allocation and it confirms proceeding to Reg 14:
- Public campaign to begin after 1st May to inform process and what is happening next
 - Engagement with stakeholders to commence with:
 - Alton Society
 - Alton Lions
 - Holybourne Village Association (HVA)
 - Windmill Hill campaign group
 - Neatham Down campaign group
 - Chawton Park Farm campaign group
 - Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN)
 - Resident Association Groups
 - MH & DA to lead with Councillor presence required – to ensure stakeholders pass on a consistent message
- 6.2 MH will put together the draft presentation for Full Allocation which will be used – circulated to the group.
- 6.3 MH & DA will prepare a further Press Release for Full Allocation (No Allocation one has already been drafted). JB agreed to use this information to prepare a document that could be circulated before the stakeholders meeting post 1st May, but not for release or outside discussion until approved by the whole of the SG. Once a decision by Full Council is known, one or the other will be published.
- 6.4 Public awareness campaign – LC is producing a quote for ATC for Reg 14.
- 6.5 An Exec meeting will be arranged to decide the next steps and the Group updated. At this stage
- the project plan will not be updated.
 - no Press Release to be published.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 The issue of how the Reg 14 public feedback would be gathered and assessed was discussed. It was agreed that it was essential to get this right and that LC may be able to leverage some ideas from other NP areas or O'Neil Homer experience.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 24th April at 2.00 p.m**

The meeting concluded at 15.45 p.m.

