



## **ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING NOTES**

**WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2024**

### **In attendance:**

Mike Heelis – Chair (MH)  
David Allan – Vice Chair (DA)  
Rob Fowell – Community Representative (RF)  
Richard Parratt – Community Representative (RP)  
Councillor Suzie Burns – EHDC Representative (SB)  
Councillor Graham Hill - ATC Representative (GH)  
Councillor Annette Eyre – Alton Town Council (AE)  
Pat Harris – Interim Town Clerk (PMH)  
Leah Coney – O'Neill Homer (LC) via Zoom

### **1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from John Bound (JB), John Grace (JG) Peter Holden (PH) Community Representatives

Not required: Adam Harvey & Jenny Wood (EHDC Officers)

**Ex-officio** – Councillors Annette Eyre & John Chubb

### **2. Updates since Last Meeting & Actions Arising:**

- 2.1 Town Centre Masterplan circulated to all members of the Group (Post meeting note: this document along with other documents was resent on 8<sup>th</sup> May as it would appear that not all members had received it.)
- 2.2 Design Code feedback – LC had had duly amended.
- 2.3 School places information – SB had sent this information which has been added to the evidence base.
- 2.4 Meeting with stakeholders – this remains in abeyance as Alton Town Council have requested a further briefing session with MH, LC & AH in attendance for the first half of the session to answer pre-advised questions as well as provide any other information required.
- 2.5 The proposed Extra-ordinary meeting of the Council to consider and vote on ANPSG recommendations was not scheduled. Councillors requested a briefing session (as detailed in 2.4 above) to gain a better understanding to make a decision.
- 2.6 Meeting with Jerry Janes & District Councillor Ginny Boxall has taken place with AE chairing and MH & PMH also in attendance. The comment that MH had been opposed to any brownfield development had obviously been due to a misunderstanding/misquote and the record was corrected accordingly as this had certainly not been the case. Jerry Janes & Ginny Boxall both agreed that Alton needs to take some development but it needs to be spread more evenly across the town. There were a number of different positions in terms of housing allocation and no common ground was found.
- 2.7 PMH had briefed MH following the after meeting of the Full Council with MH phoning all members of the Steering Group to update them on the council's current position in relation to

site allocations and numbers of dwellings which they believe would be acceptable for Altonians.

- 2.8 There had been a formal notification from Turnberry in respect of the green space at Holybourne (where the play area is) reminding the Steering Group that Alton Town Council in agreeing to their current signed and executed Lease on the green space included within it a lift and shift clause for the play area to be relocated if required.
- 2.9 An e-mail had been received from the Hopfield Place Residents Association respectfully advising that the green space within the estate upon which there is a small play area be removed from the green space designation as it is not an open space and is for the use of residents of that particular development. MH responded that it will be removed from the draft plan.

### **3. Review of Housing Allocation Approach and Draft Neighbourhood Plan**

- 3.1 GH had e-mailed Mike (subsequently circulated to all of the group) giving his personal recollections (may differ with AE & PH) of the un-minuted post Full Council meeting held with Councillors on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Town Councillors require more information and answers to questions which centre around site allocations and housing numbers.
- 3.2 AE confirmed that councillors are seeking answers to further questions they have especially in terms of what is viewed as strategic sites for Alton and that the general opinion of councillors is that time is on their side. It is the view of the ANPSG that time is not on the side of Alton in respect of definition of a NP.
- 3.3 A further briefing is to be arranged when the majority of councillors will be available to attend. This is currently being arranged for early June.
- 3.4 The steering group is cognisant of the dilemma faced by councillors but remain steadfast in the 3 options before Council: no allocation/full allocation which includes the whole of South Alton/Steering Group stand down.
- 3.5 MH advised that at the Damien Hinds meeting held recently in Alton which he attended – there was strong opposition to development in Alton in the numbers that were contained within the Local Plan Reg 18 consultation.

### **4. Site Allocations**

Completed.

### **5. Confirmation of Policies**

Completed.

Thanks were extended to both Leah & David for the considerable work that had been undertaken.

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

- 6.1 LC had provided an quote to PMH on the cost of O'Neil Homer producing a Comms Plan for the pre Reg 14 period and whilst there was no rush on a decision, the quote remains good pending ATC endorsing the Plan to go out for consultation.
- 6.2 SB will enquire of EHDC the consequences of further delay by ATC in going to Reg 14 and advise accordingly..
- 6.3 LC confirmed that Reg 14 could possibly start mid-August for the 6 week consultation period should ATC make a decision at the Full Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July.
- 6.4 PMH to cancel booking at the Assembly Rooms for 7/8<sup>th</sup> June.
- 6.5 PMH to extend an invitation to all councillors to attend a “walk” of the South Alton proposed site as this could prove to be beneficial than councillors looking at a map. SB offered to lead.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- 7.1 RF agreed to research responses to the Local Plan Reg 18 consultation by prospective South Alton developers in Alton.
- 7.2 LC will liaise with ATC regarding postings for Facebook page.
- 7.3 PMH to liaise with MH to arrange an Exec Meeting.

## **8. Next Meeting of the Steering Group**

The next meeting has been scheduled **for Wednesday, 12 June at 2.00 p.m. (advance apologies from DA & RP)**

The meeting concluded at 3.45 p.m.