



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Plan Working Party
held at the Billingshurst Centre
on Monday 2 March 2020 at 11.00am**

Present

Cllrs Jon Perks (Chairman), Graeme Acraman, Barry Barnes and Dave Homer.

In attendance

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

J Booth, Assistant Clerk

District Councillor Chris Brown

4 members of the public

- 01/20** **Election of Chairman.**
Cllr Jon Perks was elected Chairman.
- 02/20** **Election of Vice Chairman.**
Cllr Dave Homer was elected Vice Chairman.
- 03/20** **Apologies for Absence.**
An apology was received from Cllr Sue Kingston (prior commitment).
- 04/20** **Declarations of interest and notification of change to members' interests.**
None.
- 05/20** **Public Session.**
The Chairman invited members of the public to speak and concerns raised included: -
- Adversane – the Residents Association has employed a solicitor to act for them. The hamlet was previously rejected for development on the grounds of infrastructure;
 - there are inconsistencies in the documents and sites which have previously been rejected are coming forward again although nothing has changed which makes them acceptable;
 - questions need to be asked in regard to sustainable travel.
- 06/20** **Update on response to the Horsham District Council (HDC) Local Plan Review Regulation 18 consultation.**
The Chairman explained that at a Parish Council Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 20 February 2020, it was agreed that a Planning Consultant should be engaged to assist the Parish Council in examining the proposals for three strategic sites – reviewing the evidence (landscape, ecology, etc.), and the

Sustainability Assessments for each site. He will, where necessary, challenge HDC before formulating a response to the consultation. It was also agreed that this Working Party be established to be aware of public concerns and encourage residents to respond individually to the consultation. The Working Party will also collate any evidence resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan project (both strategic sites and those smaller ones not being considered at present within the Local Plan Review) and assist the Consultant generally. The policies within the Draft Local Plan will also need to be considered whilst the Consultant concentrates on the housing aspect.

Action: All.

07/20 To agree on further actions and liaison with Planning Consultant and other interested parties.

The Review also includes 46 policies which Planning Officers use when considering planning applications. These policies should reflect those in the National Planning Policy Framework. **Action: Assistant Clerk to divide policies amongst members for review.**

Given the time constraint, and as agreed at the Parish Council's Planning and Environment Committee meeting on 20 February, it will not be possible to consult within the Parish. Residents are to be encouraged to respond individually to HDC and send copies of their responses to the Parish Office if they wish. It was agreed that a reminder of the consultation would be sent to interested groups, GP, schools, etc. **Action: Clerk and Assistant Clerk.**

Members are asked to send the Assistant Clerk details of cases where promises made by developers have not been honoured. This information will then be forwarded to the Planning Consultant. **Action: All.**

The question of how much housing Billingshurst has already contributed within the District arose. It was also reported that HDC had undertaken not to bring forward large-scale development until the residents of the new properties within the Parish had been fully integrated. **Action: District Councillor Chris Brown will look into this.**

Members were advised that under and over-delivery of housing is a problem for HDC. Plugging gaps in delivery for the lifetime of the Plan means that the District could end up with more development than was initially requested. There is no credit given for overdevelopment in one year offsetting underdevelopment in the next.

All members of the Working Party should be familiar with the sites in the SHEELA and should consider the smaller scale development proposals which were suggested as part of the Neighbourhood Plan exercise.

It was suggested that the assessment criteria should be examined, i.e. what are they?, are they correct?, who decided on them?, do they align with HDC consultations and assessments and are they available for this group to critique?

The Planning Consultant should be asked if there is a way to assess what infrastructure is required per new property. There may be a national formula for it.
Action: Assistant Clerk.

08/20 **Any other matters for information only.** None.

09/20 **To agree a timetable of future meetings.**

As the consultation has only a further 4 weeks to run, it was agreed that Working Party meetings might be held as frequently as weekly. The next meeting will be held on **Monday 9 March 2020 at 11.00am.**

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.

Chairman

Date