

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

**Present:** Richard Mawhood (Chairman), Caroline Blomfield, Ben Holden, Jennie Denny, Alan Round, Andrew Brain, John Guyler, Tim Baker, Dr Richard West, Lisa Hicks, Robert Pyle (co-opted to Policy Group), Ian Poole (Critical Friend), Tom Tawell (Pigeon), David Barker (Hopkins Homes) and 2 members of the public.

**Public comment:** TT and DB were asked to participate at item 11 rather than under public comment.

**1 Apologies for absence** were received from David Hughes, Jane Storey, Jane Foster and Trevor Howard.

**2. To receive declarations of interest.** RW declared a prejudicial interest in the Pigeon development land south of Old Stowmarket Road as this includes a car park for Woolpit Health Centre and as President of Woolpit Cricket Club as this is on land beside the Hopkins Homes development land. JD and AR declared a prejudicial interest as they live beside the proposed Hopkins Homes development land.

**3. To approve minutes of the meeting 24 July 2017.**

The minutes were approved signed.

**4. To receive correspondence/communications and deal with any matters.**

None.

**5. To receive accounts for payment.**

There were none.

**6. To receive a report on the analysis of the results of the Questionnaire and discuss their significance.**

CB reported on the draft results of the questionnaire. There was a good response both hard copy and online of over 50%. It is hoped to have the results completed and the full report available for the next meeting. RM would then like the report presented to the village at another public exhibition around the end of the year. JG suggested that a summary of the report should be published in Woolpit Diary.

**7. To receive a report on the application for a grant for the Landscape Sensitivity Study and discuss: the need for a NP call for sites; criteria to suggest to consultants.**

The Landscape Charter Assessment Group met 14 September to discuss the grant application for the LSS; the cost being £4950 plus additional costs of some display materials and a final feedback meeting. JF and CB submitted an application for £5670 on 19 September. A Strategic Environment Assessment is required but IP advised it is better to do this once the pre-submission draft plan is ready. The draft Local Plan has a new map for Woolpit showing viable sites. The criteria MSDC use will be passed to Alison Farmer to help rank sites how they are appropriate for development.

**8. To receive a report from the Policies Group and react to questions raised.**

The group are looking at what is driving the housing need/demand: barriers to growth what are they and can they be overcome regarding access, congestion, footway/cyclepath needs, social and community issues and facilities, community cohesion, greenspaces: design criteria – what criteria should new houses be built to?: what is a village? – sense of community, maintaining character, integration of new inhabitants: what size of development do we want?

**9. To receive information BMSDC's Strategic Planning Team.**

Nobody from the team was present.

**10. To raise and clarify any matters with the Pigeon Investments representative.**

TT was asked regarding the land to the rear of the school, discussions are ongoing with the owner. RM asked TT to find out if the land becomes available will access to the school be through the current application for development south of Old Stowmarket Road, also if access will be available will there be additional housing development on this extra land. The Parish Council feel Pigeon have been very co-operative and listened to what the village wants.

**11. To discuss reactions to Woolpit North with Hopkins Homes representatives.**

The exhibition questionnaires and feedback has been considered by Hopkins Homes and they are revamping their plans. This will then be subject to reconsultation. The main issues are scale, phasing, infrastructure, position of housing, community facilities. Members of the SG feel there is a need to improve facilities and keep the village as one not two separate areas. There is a need for housing for elderly, sheltered accommodation and a care home should be considered. DB stated that Hopkins Homes will develop the site themselves and 50 properties a year is usual for most developers. Facilities will grow as the development progresses.

The SG reiterated that the traffic surveys and counts seen within supporting documentation for applications need to be understandable and provide an explanation of what columns and data mean.

**12. To discuss the feasibility of an independent traffic study.**

It was felt that it would be better to contact SCC Highways when suitable sites have been identified.

**13. To review the NP roadmap for the next 3-4 months and set intermediate goals.**

Building the evidence base is almost complete. The next section is to write the plan. The Aims and Objectives need to be reviewed and revised then used as the basis for policies. RM would like the draft plan of policies ready by end January 2018. RP has been co-opted onto the Policy Group and Mick Meadows will also be asked to join the group. BH offered to be part of the group. It is hoped to bring the draft policy on housing to the November SG meeting.

**14. Any other business.**

The preliminary report produced by RM could be included in the next Woolpit Diary so everyone is aware.

**15. Date and time of the next Steering Group meeting – Monday 30 October 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.**

The meeting closed at 9.41 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....