

HURST GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

MEETING #18 - MINUTES

21st April 2020 at 7.30pm

(held via public teleconference as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus)

Attendees: Andrew Brown (in the Chair), Colleen Burt, Duncan McNab, Ian Hirst, Steve Wright, Tania McNab.

Apologies: Bob Collins, Graham Browne.

1 member of the public was present. Jim Boot, *Community Planner* and Alison Eardley, *Neighbourhood Planning Consultant* were also in attendance.

1. **Welcome**

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. The Chair reminded attendees that in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan Terms of Reference, that this meeting was a meeting held in public, not a public meeting. The Chair also welcomed Jim Boot, a *Community Planner* and Alison Eardley, a *Neighbourhood Planning Consultant*.

2. **Approval of previous minutes**

Members noted the minutes from the last meeting.

3. **Rother District Council updates**

- 3.1. The Chair reported that Frank Rallings's contract as Neighbourhood Planning consultant ends on the 30th April. Members thanked Frank for his support of the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2. The Chair reported that Julia Edwards has been appointed as Neighbourhood Planning Officer from the 6th April. Members agreed that Andrew should reach out to Julia, and to invite her to our meetings.

4. **Update from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government**

Members noted a briefing note from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government.

5. **External consultancy support to produce our plan**

5.1. **Presentation from Jim Boot and Alison Eardley**

Alison and Jim gave a presentation which included their background, experience and qualifications. They complemented the vision and objectives and the evidence collected to-date by the Steering Group. Members walked through Alison and Jim's proposal, which would support the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan through to referendum and then on to examination.

5.2. **Q&A session**

Alison and Jim heard from each Steering Group member, and responded to questions about their proposal.

Alison and Jim left the meeting following item 5.2.

5.3. **Steering Group decision**

Following a discussion on affordability, a vote was held on the appointment of Alison and Jim as our external advisors, and to commission work as outlined in their proposal. The vote was carried by 6 votes for, 0 votes against.

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6. Discussion on FY 20/21 grant application

The Chair reported that a Parish Council motion, which would ensure that unspent funds collected via the Parish precept for the Neighbourhood Plan was carried over to this year, had been taken electronically by Parish Councillors and had passed by 7 votes for.

Members agreed that the Chair should progress a FY 20/21 grant application with Locality, which would assist with funding the work within Jim and Alison's proposal.

7. Progress on the proposal for our leisure/sport plan

Ian reported that he had been working on arranging the mockups for potential enhanced Drewitts Field leisure facilities. Steering Group members discussed the mockups in light of the current coronavirus situation. Members agreed that it made sense to progress these, for use in a future exhibition and for use online.

8. Update on planned business survey

Following the decision taken at the last Steering Group meeting to delay the neighbourhood plan business survey, Tania led an update on the survey. It was agreed to launch the survey now, subject to revisiting the questions in light of the current coronavirus situation.

9. Housing items:

9.1. Update on status of the HG 35, Foundry Close site

Members received an update on the HG 35, Foundry Close site. Details can be found on Rother District Council's housing application website.
<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2019/2194/P&from=planningSearch>

9.2. Update on any newly received site proposals

The Chair reported that no new site proposals had been received. Members noted that the landowner contact for HG 2 / HG 2A, had decided to withdraw their site from the neighbourhood plan process. The site would therefore have to be marked as unavailable.

9.3. Date for next housing task group meeting

Members discussed that Tuesday's at 7.30pm were likely to work best for the next housing task group meeting, with a view to scheduling a meeting the following week. The Chair took an action to contact Alison to invite her to attend.

10. Roundtable progress thoughts / any matters for next meeting

Members reflected on the evening's positive meeting.

11. Next planned meeting is Tuesday, May 19th 2020 at 7.30pm.