

## EAST HOATHLY WITH HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at 7:30 pm.

#### Kings Head, East Hoathly

1. Present - Chris Magness, Jonathan Walker, Richard Partridge, Kate Richardson, David Chapman, Gina Cuthbertson, Jonathan Richie, Susan Cole.
2. Apologies – None
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved and signed.
4. **Footpaths.** All agreed with the notices that John Deane had placed around East Hoathly highlighting the need to formally push for the footpaths through the land adjacent to Moat Wood to be officially recognized. John has done much of the groundwork for this and the Sg support his efforts. John will be invited to the next SG NP meeting to expand on the next steps.
5. **Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee WDC.**

Members of the SG who attended the Planning Committee reported that on revisiting an old application for houses in Hailsham, the additional payment of an Ashdown Forest supplement was intended to go towards mitigation efforts related to the forest and the provision for car charging points relating to the WDC announcement of 'Climate Emergency'. Thus, 106 (New Build Payments) will be reduced and no alternative is scheduled for AF mitigation. These measures cover some 1500 houses.

It was noted that an application for 218 houses on Marshfoot Lane, Hailsham was not approved due to the narrow width of the access road. However, comments alluding to the fact that the lane could be upgraded resulted in a deferral of decision. Kate reminded the SG of the statement from Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick, 'No development without infrastructure' as an important element in most of the application being considered and to come. It was further noted that according to CPRE, withholding or removal of AF costs/funding, is illegal prior to WDC withdrawal of the SLP.
6. **SG response to WDC Full Council Meeting on planning policy.**

The SG is fully in favour of WDC rejecting the recommendations of the SLP and support keeping the SLP rather than the suggested decision to withdraw the SLP and start again. A considerable amount of work on all sides has been invested into the plan and process and withdrawal of the plan would set both WDC and NP back for years. The best estimate is that three years would be needed to prepare a new plan to incorporate the revised housing requirements in accordance with the NPPF 2018 and to allow the EHWH NP to comply with compliance prior to a local referendum to be accepted. It was agreed that letters will be sent to, firstly, ward councillor Geoffrey Draper and leader of the Council, Bod Standley. Members of the SG will write to other Councillors and PC will write to MP Nusrat Ghani. It was further agreed that a meeting with Marina Briggingshaw and Chris Bending should be arranged prior to the Full Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February.
7. **Habitats**

Withdrawal of the SLP puts into question the studies that have been conducted on habitats. Questions arise as to whether these studies will need to be redone or if current studies will be used. A new LP will require considerably more housing and strongly suggests habitat studies will, at a minimum, need to be updated.

**8. Meeting minutes.**

David Chapman and Susan Cole agreed to take over the role of notetaking and composition of the minutes as from the next meeting.

**9. Next Meeting**

This meeting ended at 9.30 and the next meeting is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Kings Head at 7.00pm