

PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2014 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT Mr D. Cooper (chair), Mr K.Lintill,
Mr B Walsh, Mr N. Fox. Mr C Kemp,
Dr R.Pawsey, Mrs E Hodgkins

CLERK None in attendance

IN ATTENDANCE Mr L Scott Leconfield Estate

1. Apologies. None
2. Declarations of interest None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st January unfortunately had not been circulated but were available at the meeting. They were agreed *and signed?*

I believe Neville raised a point regarding his non attendance at the meeting in the estate office but cant remember what.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Petworth Vision Questionnaire.

Mr Riddle was not able to attend the meeting. However Mr Lintill was able to say that the process of formulating the report from the responses to the questionnaire was running slightly behind programme, but he understood that a presentation was to be given in the Leconfield Hall on the 24th 25th of this month. There was some concern expressed that this would not allow much time for publicising this important event.

I hope we asked Ken to look into this ?

(b) Town Walks.

In view of the appalling weather which we are told may continue for weeks or possibly months it was agreed to delay this event

(c) Town Maps

Mr Scott has kindly provided maps showing the boundary of the statutory development area of the town which also shows shlaa sites and in addition a plan of the town centre.

We also have a license to obtain maps from the official source free of charge.

5. REPORT ON FUNDING APPLICATION TO LOCALITY.

Mr Walsh reported that this has now been agreed in principle in the sum of £7000-00 less an initial 10% pending final agreement. This should be expended in the period ending on 31st December. Mr Cooper asked if the sum allocated by the council of £1000-00 could be carried over to the next financial year. Mr Walsh said this would depend on the agreement of the finance committee. Mrs. Hodgkins thanked Mr Walsh for all the effort he had put into obtaining the finance from Locality and the SDNPA.

6. REPORT ON MEETING WITH TIM RICHINGS AND ANDREW TRIGGS OF THE SDNPA ON TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

Mr Cooper had produced notes of this meeting which were circulated. During the discussion of these, general surprise was expressed that Petworth was currently allocated a tier three settlement status within the National Park, equivalent to a village such as Ditchling. Mr Richings had stated that the SDNPA was considering a review of this and was minded to elevate the town to tier 2 status. Mrs Hodgkins stated that she felt sure this would certainly be welcomed by the council, which Mr Richings took note of. However she now suggested that it would be advisable if Mr Lintill could reinforce her and Mr Cooper's views to the SDNPA as chair of the Council.

It was agreed that the Community Infrastructure Levy charge of £150 per sq metre within the urban area of which 25% would go to the Town Council was quite generous producing say around £3750 per new home for the town.

However the meeting was concerned at the financial implications of the possible requirement to produce both a Sustainability and Strategic Environment Assessment.

I cant remember what the general consensus of the meeting was regarding this ?

7. DISCUSSION ON APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

Mr Cooper reiterated that he had developed some concerns over the appointment of Airs to this position following his perusal of the draft Arundel Plan prepared by Airs. He felt that in comparison with other neighbourhood plans which we had studied, it was poorly presented and lacked visual impact, and although neighbourhood plans should not be confused with master plans, there was some need for them to present a coherent picture, which that for Arundel did not. In fact there were no diagrams or photographs and one rather poorly presented map. Mrs Hodgkins believed that the plan had failed at examination stage, and Mr Lee stated that this was true due to some of the sites chosen for development not in fact being offered as such by the owners. Furthermore another plan prepared under the guidance of Airs had also been rejected for the same reason. Mr Fox wondered if this was entirely the fault of the consultants and perhaps owners had undergone a change of heart. However the meeting agreed that this outcome was not a good recommendation for these consultants.

Mr Cooper stated that after much searching as agreed at the previous meeting he believed he had now discovered consultants who might be suitable and who had been highly recommended by the Town Clerk of a town where they had prepared a neighbourhood plan. Furthermore although based in Cambridge they were happy to give the Council a presentation. It appears they have a family connection with Petworth, which eases the problem of distance. Furthermore they were happy to undertake more of the task of evidence gathering and would lead on the presentation of the draft plan to the residents. The name of the practice is Ingham Pinnock Associates. Mrs Hodgkins supported all that Mr Cooper had undertaken and added that she had been impressed by their website which she commended to the meeting. Mr Kemp proposed that we should invite these consultants to give their presentation at the next meeting, and this was unanimously agreed.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As it was important to choose a date which suited members of the steering group and the consultants a range of dates were given. 17th 18th 24th or 25th of March to be confirmed when we have heard back from the consultants. Subsequently Ingham Pinnock Associates have confirmed they will be able to attend on 17th March, the one date possible for them.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Hodgkins suggested that in addition to the Town Walk a Group visit to selected housing developments might be useful to those members of the Group who were not involved in Architecture, Planning or Building. Those who would also enjoy what might well develop into a lively and instructive debate! Mr Lee rightly pointed out that design issues were not per se part of the requirements of a neighbourhood plan, however it was agreed that during the implementation of the plan these are requirements embodied in the management policy of the National Park (*I think !*)

The idea was welcomed and Mrs Hodgkins agreed to draw together a list of interesting projects to visit. A number of possibilities were suggested by Mr Lee and Mr Fox and Mrs Hodgkins would be delighted if she could be given the location of these and any others that might come to mind by other members of the group.

Mr Cooper raised the issue that Mrs Hodgkins, who had been offered and accepted the position of chair, on the understanding that she would not be in a position to take over this responsibility from Mr Fox until March. Mr Cooper having very generously stepped in to fill the breach now wondered if Mrs Hodgkins was in a position to take over? She replied that although she had now emerged from under the pile of work that had made her unable to take over from Mr Fox she hoped Mr Cooper would continue to the stage of hopefully the appointment of the consultants he had spent so much time and effort in discovering. She was mindful of the fact that Mr Cooper when the design director of the John Lewis Partnership had by his own admission developed some experience in the appointment of consultants! She thanked him for all the help he had afforded in this and other areas and looked forward to taking over with consultants in place. This proposition was accepted by the meeting.

Mrs Hodgkins was concerned that papers put out for consultation by the SDNPA did not seem to be reaching the Council, she gave as an example the Conservation Area Report which was out for consultation this Summer. She undertook to make enquiries to try to ensure that this did not occur in future.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 ?