

## NOTES OF MEETING

<i>Meeting of / between:</i>	LEWES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP (LNPSG)																																		
<i>Venue:</i>	Yarrow Room, Town Hall																																		
<i>Date:</i>	7:00pm Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2014																																		
<i>Attending:</i>	<p>Cllr Susan Murray Chairman, Lewes Town Council Planning Committee            Steve Brigden Town Clerk            Emma Tingle Admin Support            Lucy Howard S. Downs. Nat. Park (SDNPA) Strategic Lead Officer            Amy Tyler-Jones S. Downs. Nat. Park (SDNPA) Neighbourhood Planning Officer            Neville Harrison S. Downs. Nat. Park (SDNPA) Committee Member</p> <p><i>Community organization representatives:</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Lewes Community Land Trust</td> <td>Cllr J Stockdale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clevedown Residents</td> <td>Cllr S Catlin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friends of Lewes</td> <td>Audrey Jarvis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transition Town Lewes</td> <td>Kirsten Firth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewes &amp; Ouse Valley Economics</td> <td>Dr C Tingle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewes Town Partnership</td> <td>Rosie Eggar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewes Seniors Forum</td> <td>Richard Partridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diversity Lewes</td> <td>Anthony Kalume</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nevill Residents Association</td> <td>Lucy Ruddy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nevill Residents Association</td> <td>Karina Morrisey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cycle Lewes</td> <td>Susan Thompson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paddock Road Residents</td> <td>Dawn Boxall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport Volunteer</td> <td>Vic Ient</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewes Phoenix Rising</td> <td>Jennifer Chibnall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewes Phoenix Rising (Comm. Planner)</td> <td>Andrew Simpson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewes Phoenix Rising</td> <td>Will Anderson</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Liz Thomas</td> </tr> </table>	Lewes Community Land Trust	Cllr J Stockdale	Clevedown Residents	Cllr S Catlin	Friends of Lewes	Audrey Jarvis	Transition Town Lewes	Kirsten Firth	Lewes & Ouse Valley Economics	Dr C Tingle	Lewes Town Partnership	Rosie Eggar	Lewes Seniors Forum	Richard Partridge	Diversity Lewes	Anthony Kalume	Nevill Residents Association	Lucy Ruddy	Nevill Residents Association	Karina Morrisey	Cycle Lewes	Susan Thompson	Paddock Road Residents	Dawn Boxall	Transport Volunteer	Vic Ient	Lewes Phoenix Rising	Jennifer Chibnall	Lewes Phoenix Rising (Comm. Planner)	Andrew Simpson	Lewes Phoenix Rising	Will Anderson		Liz Thomas
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<i>Apologies:</i>	<p>Cllr Dr M Turner Mayor of Lewes            Cllr Ruth O'Keeffe Lewes Town Council            Anthony Dicks Making Lewes</p>																																		

### NOTES:

1.	Cllr Susan Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2.	The Notes of the Meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2014 were agreed as an accurate record.
3.	<p>FEEDBACK - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING OPEN DAY 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014:</p> <p>Cllr Susan Murray reported on the success of the event. Each topic group had questionnaires and suggestion boxes on the day and there had been good public feedback. Each topic group leader was then asked to report on their particular area and salient points recorded:</p> <p><u>Social, Community and Cultural</u></p> <p>Total comments across the three headings were 74. 21 for Social, 22 for Community and 31 for Cultural.</p> <p><i>Social</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger play areas – present ones do not cater for children of all ages</li> <li>• Not enough facilities at Nevill</li> <li>• More public toilets</li> <li>• Better signage for walkers and cyclists</li> <li>• Outside gym at Malling Community Centre. Coffee shop at the Centre</li> <li>• One complaint about By-pass noise at Convent Field</li> <li>• Youth clubs and drop in centres need to be opened daily. One person felt there was adequate provision.</li> </ul>

*Continues..*

- Leisure Centre needs expanding
- Better boating facilities.

#### *Community*

- More NHS Dentists
- Taxi sharing on set routes
- Social meeting areas other than pubs for older people. Activity areas for children
- Use school buildings out of hours
- Bus services
- Anaerobic Digester generating local power through food waste
- Better cycle facilities

#### *Cultural*

- Magistrates Court suggested as film/performance space
- Purpose built arts venue (All Saints improvement)
- Adapt Assembly Room for performance use as an auditorium – not good enough for 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- One suggestion to expand Lewes Little Theatre – most favour multi-use Max 400 seats

Playground needs, public toilets, better signage, youth clubs, drop in centres, use of school buildings out of hours, medical centre at west end of town were identified as being important to be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.

A question regarding the Noise from the By-pass would need to be on a town wide questionnaire.

#### Sustainability

This topic had 3 stands covering areas including general sustainability issues, Environment Agency Flooding, Sea Level Rise, water running from the Downs and the Big Benefits Game.

There were various comments from the public regarding:

- Food – wish to support individual retailers
- Expand markets – perhaps hold them daily
- Energy efficiency & renewable energy. Conservation restrictions in lots of homes in Lewes. Talk to Officers about solutions.
- Renewable energy – Solar panels, wind and water power.
- Landscape & Environment – open spaces, countryside and wildlife very important
- Transport – support cycling, affordable buses, and support shared space, electric cars, electric bicycle bays.
- Flooding – buildings in flood areas need measures to prevent flooding.

#### Big Benefits Game

Landport Bottom was valued as giving most benefits. Other areas surrounding Lewes were identified but were outside Neighbourhood Plan areas. Open spaces were identified around the town were valued by people who played the game. Green infrastructure was important to health and wellbeing.

Flooding – need to look at wider landscape. Water capture important from the downs.

Lewes Railway land on the map was small scale so people did not comment on this important area.

#### Transport

This topic had questions on park and ride, bus services, lorry transshipment, car parks, the bus station, lorries and scaffolding. There were some questions that could be in answered in principle with a yes or a no. These questions were calculated again all of the people who came onto the stand. Some people did not answer the questions. Statistics show that:

- Should the Lewes- Uckfield line reopen – 67% yes and 2% no
- Do we need a park and ride services – 22% yes 7% no
- Car park at the western end of Lewes – 22% yes 7% no
- No questions were statistically answered on the Bus Station and Bus Services
- Lorry Ban in the town from 10am to 4pm – 49% yes 7% no

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lorry transhipment (the quarry used as drop of points for large lorries) and traders collecting goods 25% yes 5% no</li> <li>• Banning scaffolding erection in High Street during week – 22% yes 11% no</li> </ul> <p>There were no statistical questions on the Bus Station and Bus Services yet several comments were made.</p> <p>There were no questions on cycling and pedestrians, however several comments were made on this subject at the open day.</p> <p><u>Housing</u></p> <p>Total questionnaires completed for this topic was 35. A large map of the town was available for people to identify areas for housing. Lots of positive comments were received with people accepting that new development was needed. Affordable housing was considered a priority for the next generation. Small properties with small gardens. Renting seemed to be the only option in the present climate. Good design was needed for new housing and should the National Park take initiative on design guidance in due course.</p> <p>Sites with virtual approval – North Street, Brooks Road, Canon O'Donnell, Church Twitten – this was acknowledged at the open day.</p> <p>North of Houndean Rise and West of Houndean Rise were identified as areas for housing with a railway station for Kingston. There was feeling that the St Anne's site should be used for housing, as was Southerham. It was also felt that first floor of shops should be used for rented accommodation. Earwig Corner was suggested as another possibility for housing. It was asked why Old Malling Farm had been turned down for development.</p> <p>Overall people talked positively about housing and addressing the need for affordable housing.</p> <p><u>Tourism</u></p> <p>This topic covered signage, park and ride, guide books, anniversary events and business rates and parking signage.</p> <p>There were several references at the open day of reducing business rates. Suggestions were made for park and ride, cheaper parking. It was identified that tourism is relevant to transport.</p>
4.	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>The SDNPA are very supportive of Neighbourhood Planning. The National Park were working on their Local Plan and working with Lewes District Council on the Joint Core Strategy, with which Lewes' Neighbourhood Plan would have to comply.</p> <p>The time scale for the South Downs Local Plan is for adoption in 2017. The target for the Neighbourhood Plan being adopted is 2016. The SDNPA needs certainty that there will be a plan in place that gives guidance and support for planning for that neighbourhood. The Lewes NP would need to be at an advanced stage by November 2015 with a clear project plan by December 2014.</p>
5.	<p><u>Project Plan</u></p> <p>Need to start with a date for our pre-submission consultation, and working back from that the things that need to be done to get there.</p> <p>To draft a plan – Need to focus on what the policies are going to say with evidence to support those policies. SDNPA Officers would support with key stages.</p>
6.	<p><u>Planning Consultant</u></p> <p>The group then discussed the need for a Managing Consultant for the project. A list of consultants working in the field in this area could be supplied by the SDNPA. A sub-group consisting of Cllr Catlin, Cllr S Murray, Kirsten Firth, Amy Tyler- Jones and the Town Clerk was agreed, and asked to consider the need for a Consultant and a prospective brief; reporting back to the Steering Group.</p>
7.	<p><u>Communications Strategy</u></p> <p>This would be part of the Project Plan and would be incorporated in the sub-group meetings.</p>

8.	<p><u>Sussex Wildlife Trust</u></p> <p>The Sussex Wildlife Trust were very interested in the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan and were drawing up guidance for Neighbourhood Plans with regard to Biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>
9.	<p><u>Ecosystems Workshop</u></p> <p>The Meeting then moved on to the possibility of running an ecosystem workshop for the group. This could be held either in a morning or afternoon slot. Dr Colin Tingle would suggest times, dates and outline costs and email the group.</p>
10.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>It was reported that the SDNPA would be making a decision on the Magistrates Court Planning application on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October at their offices in Midhurst.</p>
11.	<p>The next meeting of the Group would be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. The Chairman then thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting. <i>Meeting ended</i> 9:10pm</p>