

NOTES OF MEETING

<i>Meeting of / between:</i>	LEWES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP														
<i>Venue:</i>	Council Chamber, Town Hall														
<i>Date:</i>	7:00pm Monday 13 th January 2014														
<i>Attending:</i>	<p>Cllr M Chartier Lewes Town Council, and Chairman Lewes District Council 2013/14 Cllr I Eiloart Lewes Town Council lead for Communications Cllr Merlin Milner Lewes Town Council lead for Environment & Tourism Cllr Susan Murray Chairman, Lewes Town Council Planning Committee Cllr Ruth O’Keeffe Mayor of Lewes 2013/14 Steve Brigden Town Clerk Chris Paterson South Downs National Park Strategy Lead Officer (Communities)</p> <p><i>Community organization representatives:</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Cliffe Residents Association</td> <td>Andi Mindel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diversity Lewes</td> <td>Anthony Kalume</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friends of Lewes</td> <td>Mike Stepney</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewes Chamber of Commerce</td> <td>Ashley Price</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewes Seniors Forum</td> <td>Richard Partridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nevill Residents Association</td> <td>Brian Kirby</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transition Town Lewes</td> <td>Kirsten Firth</td> </tr> </table>	Cliffe Residents Association	Andi Mindel	Diversity Lewes	Anthony Kalume	Friends of Lewes	Mike Stepney	Lewes Chamber of Commerce	Ashley Price	Lewes Seniors Forum	Richard Partridge	Nevill Residents Association	Brian Kirby	Transition Town Lewes	Kirsten Firth
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<i>Apologies:</i>	<p>Cllr Roger Murray Lewes Town Council lead for Youth & Community matters Cllr Dr Mike Turner Lewes Town Council lead for Policy & Finance matters</p>														

NOTES:

1	<p>Cllr Susan Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting, and briefly rehearsed the reasons for it.</p> <p>There was some time spent in covering “the story so far” for the benefit of those who had not attended the previous meeting, and some clarification of misunderstandings related to the respective responsibilities of the Council; the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), and Lewes District Council.</p> <p>It was reported that the earlier decision to register the whole parish as a Neighbourhood Area had been implemented, and that the SDNPA would now post the required public notice and await any response.</p>
2	<p>Chris Paterson, Strategy Lead Officer (Communities) for the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), rehearsed some of the early experiences in developing a Neighbourhood Plan (N-Plan) at Petersfield. The SDNPA would evolve its own Local Plan for the park within the next few years, he said, and Lewes was in a fortunate position in that any N-Plan developed for the town would act as a firm policy base for that.</p>
3	<p>There was a wide ranging discussion on the practical approach needed to carry-out the work, and it was recognized that meetings would be more effective if a Chairman were designated. After a short debate, Cllr Susan Murray was elected as Chairman for the following two meetings, when the matter would be revisited. It was further proposed and agreed that an informal “skills audit” be carried-out within the Group, to identify any potential special contributions which might be offered. It was acknowledged that some of those present were temporarily substituting for “permanent” members who were unable to attend that evening and this would be deferred until the next meeting.</p>
4	<p>The meeting then moved on to discuss the scope of the plan; what it might include; and how best to address the work. It was obvious that the subject areas initially proposed (listed in previous meeting notes) would need careful thought before the structure of the plan could be defined. It was proposed that these were grouped thematically, into broad areas, and individual Group members would begin preliminary work on “testing” their fit within a N-Plan and identification of other bodies or individuals from whom there might be helpful input. As example, Cllr Milner recounted a recent Council working party meeting regarding transport issues and related developments (such as the bus and rail stations) which had been well-attended by a number of invited experts from interested organizations. This had effectively begun a strand of work to establish planning priorities on that topic, which could be</p>

	<p>developed further and was supported by a high level of professional interest. It was agreed that this process be started, with individuals taking a lead in initial research as:</p> <p>Business and local economy Ashley Price</p> <p>Land use (including issues such as housing) Neil Merchant (FoL) with Richard Partridge</p> <p>Climate and environment Kirsten Firth</p> <p>Community matters (eg the “lifetime town” concept) Andi Mindel</p> <p>Transport & communications Merlin Milner</p>
5	<p>It was agreed that the minutes of the Council working party referred-to earlier, and a map of the parish, would be distributed to Group members with notes of the meeting. The next meeting was agreed as 7:00pm on Monday 24th February, in the Town Hall.</p>

Meeting ended 9:10pm